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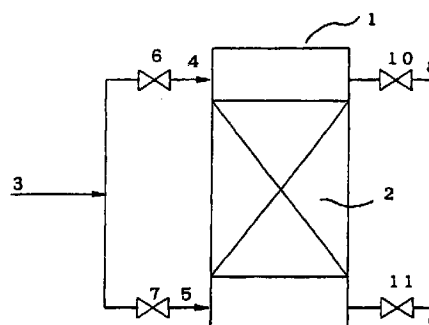
(54) **Process for eliminating mercury form liquid hydrocarbons**

(57) The present invention provides a process for eliminating mercury and mercury compounds from liquid hydrocarbons in a naphthametal elimination process having an adsorption treatment zone provided with a packed layer of mercury adsorbent, comprising the steps of:

- introducing the mercury-containing liquid hydrocarbon into the adsorption treatment zone;
- contacting the mercury-containing liquid hydrocarbon with the packed layer of mercury adsorbent in the adsorption treatment zone at a temperature of 10°C to 200°C and a LV value of 1 cm/min to 100 cm/min; and
- removing treated liquid hydrocarbon from the adsorption treatment zone.

According to this mercury elimination process, the mercury present in liquid hydrocarbons can be almost completely, efficiently and continuously removed through adsorption treatment regardless of the amount of mercury present and regardless of the presence of any sulfur compounds.

FIGURE 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 10 2440

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6) |
| X | WO 91 15559 A (EXXON CHEMICAL PATENTS INC) 17 October 1991 | 1,4 | C10G25/00 |
| A | * claims 1,26,28,29 * * page 12, line 27 - page 13, line 14 * --- | 1,4,9 | |
| A | US 5 107 060 A (YAN TSOUNG Y) 21 April 1992 * claims 1,11,13 * --- | 1,6 | |
| A | FR 2 673 191 A (INSTITUT FRANCAIS DU PETROLE) * claims 1,6 * * page 7, line 24 - page 8, line 9 * ----- | 1,4,6,8 | |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) |
| | | | C10G |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 17 December 1997 | Examiner De Herdt, O |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> | | | |

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