



(11) **EP 2 098 539 A8**

(12) **CORRECTED EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(15) Correction information:
Corrected version no 1 (W1 A1)
Corrections, see
Bibliography INID code(s) 71

(51) Int Cl.:
C08B 1/00 (2006.01) **C08B 11/08 (2006.01)**

(48) Corrigendum issued on:
09.12.2009 Bulletin 2009/50

(43) Date of publication:
09.09.2009 Bulletin 2009/37

(21) Application number: **08003876.3**

(22) Date of filing: **03.03.2008**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL NO PL PT
RO SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL BA MK RS

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(54) **Homogeneous synthesis of cellulose ethers in ionic liquids**

(57) In the present invention a simple and new method for the homogeneous synthesis of cellulose ethers is described. Ionic liquids are not only used as solvent and as reaction media for the homogeneous etherification of cellulose. The dissolved cellulose is treated with the etherification agent in the absence of organic or inorganic

bases and in the absence and/or in the presence of moderate amounts of water. The obtained cellulose ethers show new distribution of substitution on the polymer chain resulting in new properties and applicati

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