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(54) **Multivalent electrolytic process for the surface treatment of non ferrous metallic material**

(57) A process for the electrolytic treatment of non-ferrous metal materials, such as for example magnesium, aluminium, titanium, vanadium and alloys thereof, particularly a process for the production of a surface coating which has both an aesthetic and a protective function.

Said process comprises at least one main treatment stage or anodic stage carried out in a tank or cell, using an alkaline solution which allows the simultaneous treat-

ment of metal materials, even different metals, and/or materials made from alloys and/or combinations and/or other kind of various metals coupled together.

An object of the present invention is also products made from non-ferrous metal materials, provided with surface coatings obtained according to the above process.

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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 63 of the European Patent Convention EP 06 02 0777 shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2002/104761 A1 (BIRSS VIOLA I [CA] ET AL) 8 August 2002 (2002-08-08) * claims 1-32 *	1-19	INV. C25D11/08 C25D11/14 C25D11/24 C25D11/26 C25D11/30
X	EP 1 587 348 A (FENG CHIA UNIVERSITY [TW]) 19 October 2005 (2005-10-19) * claims 1-16 *	1-19	
X	US 2003/070936 A1 (DOLAN SHAWN E [US]) 17 April 2003 (2003-04-17) * claims 22-38 *	1-19	
X	US 4 668 347 A (HABERMANN CLARENCE E [US] ET AL) 26 May 1987 (1987-05-26) * example 10 * * claims 1-15 *	1-19	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			C25D
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search: see sheet C</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		25 June 2008	Haering, Christian
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
<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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EPC FORM 1503 03.82 (P04E07)



Claim(s) searched incompletely:
1-19

Claim(s) not searched:
-

Reason for the limitation of the search:

The present claims 1 to 19 relates to an extremely large number of possible methods.
Actually any "treatment" is claimed in claim 1, and the word "treatment" itself is not clear. As a consequence a novelty overflow appears, because any codeposition is novelty destroying for the subject-matter of claim 1. Support and disclosure in the sense of Article 84 and 83 EPC is to be found however for only a very small proportion of the methods claimed, the anodic deposition. The non-compliance with the substantive provisions is to such an extent, that a meaningful search of the whole claimed subject-matter of the claim could not be carried out (Rule 63 EPC and Guidelines B-VIII, 3).
The extent of the search was consequently limited to the anodisation as the main treatment stage.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 06 02 0777

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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25-06-2008

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2002104761	A1	08-08-2002	NONE	

EP 1587348	A	19-10-2005	NONE	

US 2003070936	A1	17-04-2003	NONE	

US 4668347	A	26-05-1987	NONE	

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82