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(54) **Tobacco product carrying catalytically active material, its use in a smokers' article and a process for preparing it**

(57) The tobacco product carries on its surface catalytically active material for improving the burning process. The catalytically active material is selected from the group of crystalline and non-crystalline oxides and hydroxides of aluminium, e.g. gibbsite, having a particle size of 1 to 100 µm and a specific surface of 75 to 250 m<sup>2</sup>/g. With the use of the catalyst in the tobacco, the amount of noxious compounds in the mainstream and sidestream smoke can be considerably reduced in the combustion process of the smokers' article during its consumption.

The said tobacco product is useful for smoker's articles comprising a filter, a tobacco rod and a wrapper. In such articles the tobacco rod consists of the tobacco product.

The process for preparing the tobacco product carrying catalytically active materials on its surface consists in treating tobacco with any of the above-mentioned catalytically active materials, without the use of binding agents, by the steps of distributing the catalytically active material on tobacco particles and pressing the cat-

alytically active material on the tobacco particles, preferably with a defined degree of moisture. The treated tobacco product is useful for manufacturing smokers' articles, particularly cigarettes, having a reduced amount of toxic components in the smoke.

For carrying out the process, a device (1) comprising the following means is proposed:

- a) at least one conveyor belt (11, 12) for carrying the tobacco T
- b) a device (7) for supplying and distributing tobacco on the conveyor belt
- c) at least one device (9; 10) for supplying and distributing catalytically active material (C1, C2) on the tobacco on the conveyor belt
- d) at least one driving means for driving simultaneously the conveyor belt(s) (11, 12) and the devices (7, 9, 10) for supplying and distributing tobacco and catalytically active material.

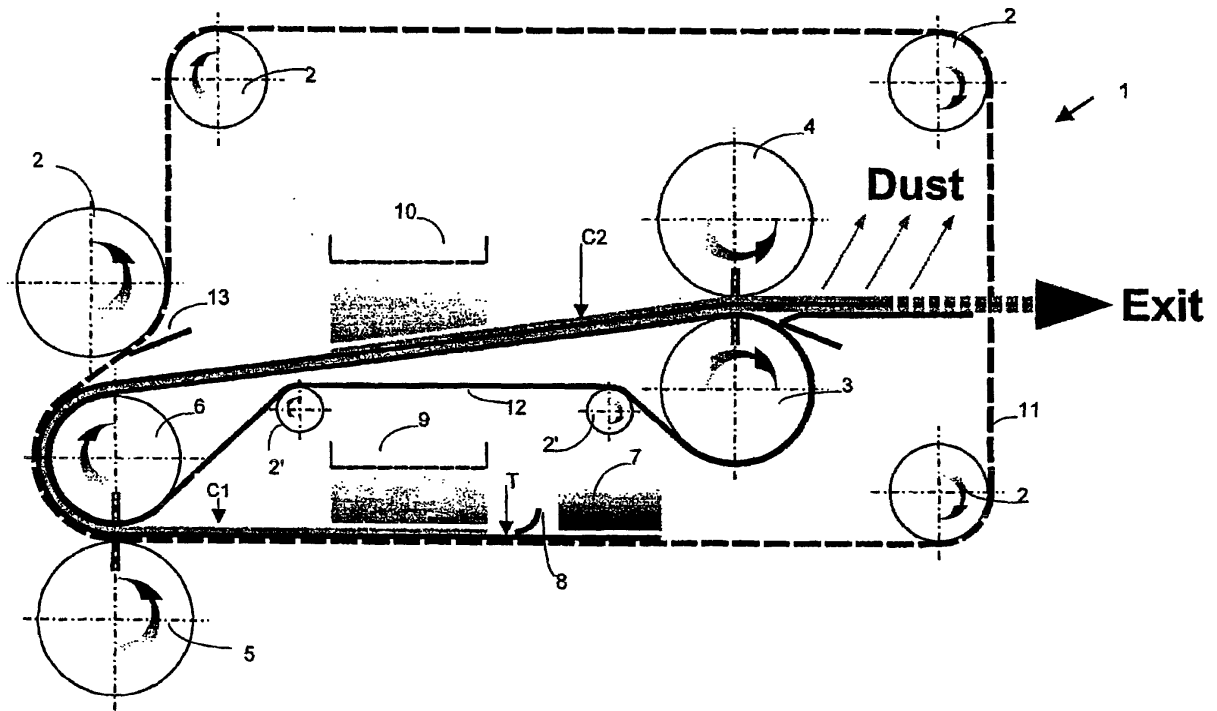


Fig. 1



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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims				
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>17 June 2003</b>	Examiner <b>Lepretre, F</b>	
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