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(54) **Smokeless Tobacco Compositions And Methods For Treating Tobacco For Use Therein**

(57) A process for preparing a tobacco composition suitable for use as a smokeless tobacco composition is proposed, comprising providing a mixture of water and a tobacco material in the form of a slurry, heating the mixture at a temperature and for a time sufficient to pasteurize the mixture, adding an amount of a base to the slurry sufficient to raise the pH of the slurry to an alkaline pH, thereby forming a pH-adjusted mixture, continuing

to heat the pH-adjusted mixture at a temperature and for a time sufficient for the pH of the pH-adjusted mixture to drop at least about 0.5 pH unit following said adding step to form a treated tobacco material, and incorporating the treated tobacco material into a smokeless tobacco product.

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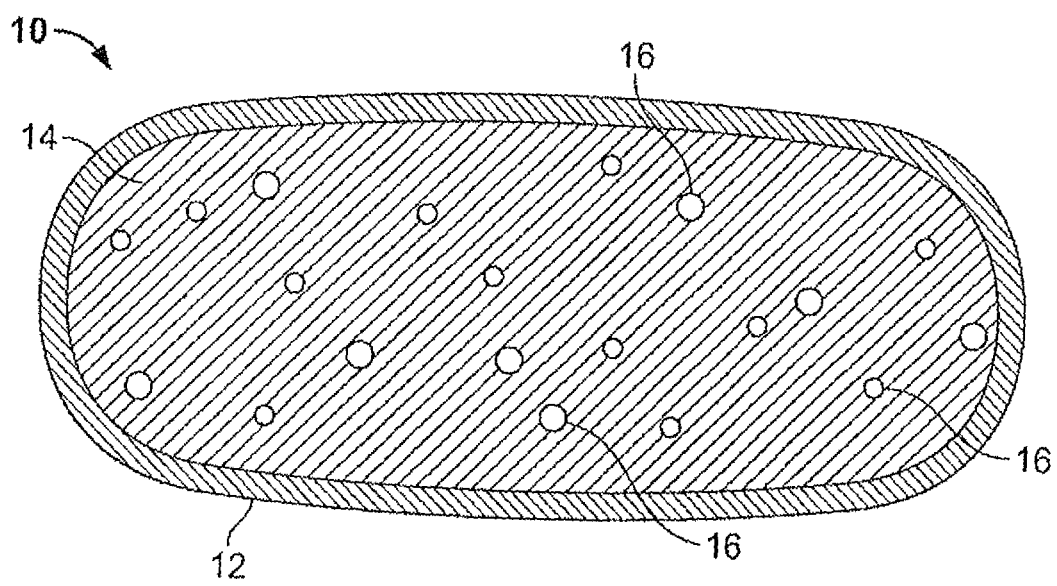


FIG. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 10 15 2287

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
A	US 2004/118422 A1 (LUNDIN JORGEN [SE] ET AL) 24 June 2004 (2004-06-24) * paragraph [0006] - paragraph [0011] * -----	1-17	INV. A24B13/00 A24B15/00 A24B3/04 A24B15/30
A	US 5 099 864 A (YOUNG HARVEY J [US] ET AL) 31 March 1992 (1992-03-31) * column 2, line 20 - column 3, line 30; example 1 * -----	1-17	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A24B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 12 August 2010	Examiner Leprêtre, François
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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		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	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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12-08-2010

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