Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2010

## **Electronic supplementary information (ESI)**

# Combined sulfating and non-sulfating support to prevent water and sulfur poisoning of Pd catalysts

Gabriella Di Carlo\*<sup>a</sup>, Gérôme Melaet<sup>b</sup>, Norbert Kruse<sup>b</sup>, Leonarda F. Liotta<sup>c</sup>, Giuseppe Pantaleo<sup>c</sup> and Anna M. Venezia<sup>c</sup>

### **Experimental**

#### *Preparation of the catalyst:*

The precursors were mixed in appropriate amounts and refluxed under stirring at 80 °C. An aqueous solution of acetic acid at pH 5 was added at 80 °C in order to catalyse the simultaneous hydrolysis of both precursors. The gel was kept at this temperature for 1 h and then dried at 110 °C for 6 h in order to remove the solvent. The product was finally calcined at 450 °C for 4 h.

Then, palladium (1 wt.%) was deposited over the mixed oxide by impregnation using an aqueous solution of palladium nitrate. The sample was dried at 120 °C overnight and calcined at 400 °C for 4 h.

#### Equipments for the catalytic tests:

The inlet and outlet gas composition was analyzed by online mass quadrupole spectrometer (Thermostar, Balzers). IR analyzers (ABB Uras 14 and 26) were used for monitoring CO, CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> and a paramagnetic analyzer (ABB Magnos 206) for monitoring O<sub>2</sub>.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Istituto per lo Studio dei Materiali Nanostrutturati (ISMN) - CNR, Via Salaria km 29300, 00015 Monterotondo Stazione, Roma, Italy. E-mail: gabriella.dicarlo@ismn.cnr.it
<sup>b</sup> Universite´ Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) Chemical Physics of Materials, Campus de la Plaine, C.P. 243, Bld du Triomphe, B-1050 Bruxelles, Belgium. E-mail: gerome.melaet@ulb.ac.be
<sup>c</sup> Istituto per lo Studio dei Materiali Nanostrutturati (ISMN) - CNR, Via Ugo La Malfa 153, 90146 Palermo, Italy.

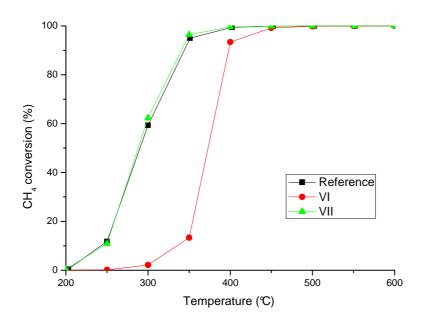


Fig. S1: Influence of an overnight treatment with  $H_2O + SO_2$  on the conversion of methane: Reference curve obtained for Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>(10%)-SiO<sub>2</sub> (lean burn conditions), curve VI (1<sup>st</sup> run after the overnight treatment), curve VII (2<sup>nd</sup> run after the overnight treatment)

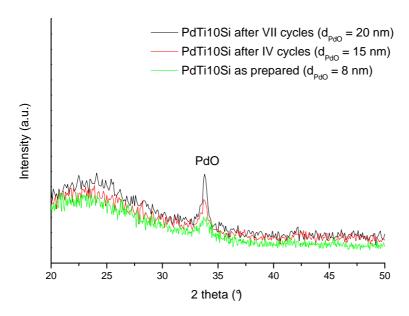


Fig. S2: XRD pattern of Pd/TiO<sub>2</sub>(10%)-SiO<sub>2</sub>: the peak centered on 34° is corresponding to PdO(101) while the broad peak centered on 23° can be attributed to amorphous SiO<sub>2</sub>.