1	Supplementary Information
2	Two-dimensional (2D) layered double metal cyanide as catalysts for CO <sub>2</sub> -
3	epoxide copolymerization
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Fig. S1. Assignment of the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of a typical product of the copolymerization
of CO<sub>2</sub> and PO in the presence of a DMC catalyst; a) Full spectrum and b) region
between 1.2 ppm and 1.4 ppm.

100  $F_{CU}$  was calculated by integration of the methyl resonances of polyether (1.14 ppm) and 101 polycarbonate segments (1.3 ppm).

$$F_{CU}, mol\% = \frac{A_{1.3}}{A_{1.3} + A_{1.14}} \cdot 100$$
 (S1)

102 W<sub>PC</sub> was determined considering the methyl resonance of PC (1.48 ppm).

W<sub>PC</sub>, wt.% = 
$$\frac{102 \cdot A_{1.48}}{58 \cdot A_{1.14} + 102 \cdot (A_{1.3} - A_{1.48})} \cdot 100$$
 (S2)

103  $S_{CO2}$  and  $S_{PO}$  were calculated by integrating all the NMR signals in the CH<sub>3</sub> region.

$$S_{CO2}, \% = \frac{A_{1.3}}{A_{1.3} + A_{1.48}} \cdot 100$$
 (S4)

$$S_{PO}, \% = \frac{A_{1.14} + A_{1.3}}{A_{1.14} + A_{1.3} + A_{1.48}} \cdot 100$$
 (S5)

104  $R_{PEC}$  was estimated from the two different resonances into which the signal 105 corresponding to the CH<sub>3</sub> protons in polycarbonate units (1.3 ppm) can be decomposed, 106 following the formula:

$$R_{PEC}, \% = \frac{A_{1.28}}{A_{1.28} + A_{1.33}} \cdot 100$$
 (S6)

107 In a block copolymer, polyethercarbonate linkages would be limited to the block interface, 108 resulting in a  $R_{PEC}$  value approaching 0%. Conversely, for a copolymer with a more 109 random microstructure, this value should be closer to 100%.



110

Fig. S2. Representative <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of the fresh product of the copolymerization of  $CO_2$  and PO in the presence of a DMC catalyst.

113  $X_{PO}$  conversion is determined by dividing copolymer and PC peaks integration by the 114 sum of copolymer, PC and PO peaks integrations.

$$X_{PO}, \% = \frac{A_{5.0} + A_{4.58} + A_{4.2} + A_{3.5}}{A_{5.0} + A_{4.58} + A_{4.2} + A_{3.5} + 3 \cdot A_{3.0}} \cdot 100$$
(S7)



Fig. S3. Relationship between the v(CN) band frequency in the 2D layered DMCs and a) the polarizing power of the M' metal ( $R^2$ =0.9962) or b) the electronegativity of the M' metal ( $R^2$ = 0.9918). Electronegativity and polarizing power values extracted from Zhang's work.<sup>1,2</sup>



122 Fig. S4. Full vibrational a) Infrared and b) Raman spectra of the studied 2D layered DMC

123 materials in the hexahydrate form. Insets: Raman low-frequency spectral region.

FT-IR and Raman spectra of the synthesized compounds comprise motions associated with the  $[Ni(CN)_4]^{2-}$  ion and water molecules. The free  $[Ni(CN)_4]^{2-}$  is a square planar ion with D<sub>4h</sub> symmetry, consisting of 9 atoms and 21 fundamental modes. Those vibrational modes can be Raman active, IR active, or neither. The wavenumbers of IR and Raman vibrations related to the  $[Ni(CN)_4]^{2-}$  are listed in **Table S1**. Assignments were made based on the bibliography.<sup>3</sup> As in the case of the v(CN), bands in the low-frequency regions shift to higher wavenumbers with the electron-withdrawing capacity of the M' metal.

133 **Table S1.** Assignment of the vibration modes related to the square planar  $[Ni(CN)_4]^{2-1}$ 134 ion.

	K <sub>2</sub> [Ni(CN) <sub>4</sub> ]	Ni[Ni(CN) <sub>4</sub> ]	Co[Ni(CN) <sub>4</sub> ]	Fe[Ni(CN) <sub>4</sub> ]	Mn[Ni(CN) <sub>4</sub> ]
v(CN), A <sub>1g</sub> (R)	2140 s	2184 s	2179 s	2173 s	2171 s
v(CN), B <sub>1g</sub> (R)	2134 m	2173 m	2167 m	2161 m	2159 m
v(CN), E <sub>u</sub> (IR)	2122 s	2166 s	2160 s	2154 s	2152 s
v(Ni-C), A <sub>1g</sub> (R)	403 w	486 w	480 w	475 w	473 w
v(Ni-C), B <sub>1g</sub> (R)	393 w	455 w	449 w	446 w	447 w
$\delta$ (Ni-CN), B <sub>2g</sub> (R)	178 w	261 w	237 w	223 w	208 w
$\pi$ (Ni-CN), E <sub>g</sub> (R)	301 w	337 w	329 w	323 w	318 w
v(Ni-C), E <sub>u</sub> (IR)	543 w	567 w	561 w	560 w	558 w
δ(Ni-CN), E <sub>u</sub> (IR)	418 s	450 s	442 s	439 s	435 s
π(Ni-CN), A <sub>2u</sub> (IR)	441 w	482 w	482 w	477 w	473 w

135 m: medium; w: weak; s: strong

The presence of crystal water is indicated by v(OH) and  $\delta(HOH)$  motions, as well as 136 weak to medium intensity bands between 450-900 cm<sup>-1</sup>, assigned to the rocking and 137 wagging modes of  $H_2O$ . In the v(OH) region, three adsorption bands emerge: a broad, 138 weak band due to hydrogen-bonded water molecules, and two sharp, strong bands due 139 to coordinated water. The highest frequency band corresponds to water molecules 140 141 directly coordinated with the M' metal, while the intermediate frequency band is 142 associated with water molecules loosely bound to the Ni atoms of the  $[Ni(CN)_4]^{2-}$  blocks. 143 It is important to note that these spectra represent hexahydrate form of the synthesized 144 materials, consistent with the observed three types of water molecules. No TBA was 145 detected in the IR spectra.



Fig. S5. HT-XRD plots of the synthesized 2D layered DMC materials in air: a) Ni-Ni, b)
Co-Ni, c) Fe-Ni and d) Mn-Ni. Color code: green (hexahydrate form), cyan (mix of hexaand trihydrate forms), blue (trihydrate form), magenta (mix of tri- and dehydrated forms),
red (dehydrated form), and black (product of decomposition).

Above 300 °C, all crystalline phases degrade, except for the Ni-Ni sample, which remains stable up to 310 °C. The rest of the samples degrade at 280 °C (Co-Ni) and 260 °C (Fe-Ni and Mn-Ni). Notably, a linear correlation exists between the degradation temperature and the C $\equiv$ N stretching vibrational energy (R<sup>2</sup>= 0.9843) which essentially measures the bond strength of the Ni-C $\equiv$ N-M' chain.



Fig. S6. HT-XRD plots of the synthesized 2D layered DMC materials in vacuum: a) NiNi, b) Co-Ni, c) Fe-Ni, and d) Mn-Ni. Color code: blue (trihydrate form), magenta (mix of
tri- and dehydrated forms) and red (dehydrated form).

Although dehydration occurs at low temperatures in vacuum, decomposition takes place at significantly higher temperatures than in air, with all samples remaining stable even at 400 °C. This difference in the decomposition temperature arises from distinct decomposition mechanism in air and vacuum. In air, DMCs oxidize to metal oxides, whereas in inert atmospheres, they reduce to pure metals and metal carbides.<sup>4,5</sup>



166 **Fig. S7**. TGA curves of the studied 2D layered DMC materials in the range between 25 167 °C and 175 °C in **a**) air and **b**)  $N_2$ .

Fig. S7 provides a detailed view of the stages of water weight loss. In the second stage, two additional weight losses can be slightly differentiated, one corresponding to coordinated water and the other to weakly linked water. However, the inflection point is not well-defined. In  $N_2$ , water is released even at room temperature.



173 Fig. S8. TEM images of the studied 2D layered DMC materials at different magnifications.



175 Fig. S9. TEM images of the Mn-Ni sample at a) 5000 and b) 2000 magnifications.





177 Fig. S10.  $N_2$  adsorption-desorption isotherms of the studied 2D layered DMC materials.



179Fig. S11. N2 adsorption-desorption isotherms of the Ni-Ni sample at different180pretreatmenttemperatures.

T <sub>pre</sub> , ⁰C	$S_{BET}$ , $m^2 g^{-1}$	$V_p$ , cm <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup>	D <sub>p</sub> ª, nm	D <sub>p</sub> <sup>b</sup> , nm
25	11.6	0.0463	20.5	11.7
50	17.0	0.0601	18.6	10.4
75	40.6	0.1035	12.7	6.9
150	70.4	0.1345	8.7	5.3

181 **Table S2.** Textural properties of the Ni-Ni sample at different pretreatment temperatures.

182 <sup>a</sup> Determined from the BJH method applied to the adsorption branch.

183 <sup>b</sup> Determined from the BJH method applied to the desorption branch.

At low dehydration temperatures, the Ni-Ni sample displays a H2(b) hysteresis loop 184 185 characteristic of complex porous structures with pore blocking affected desorption. As pretreatment temperature increases, a reduction in pore neck diameter is observed, 186 leading to a pronounced step down in the hysteresis loop due to cavitation. The 187 desorption branch-determined pore size is influenced by pore network effects, and it 188 189 corresponds to the pore entrances, while the adsorption branch offers a more reliable pore size distribution. The increase in the specific surface area (S<sub>BET</sub>) and pore volume 190  $(V_p)$  values, along with the decrease in pore diameter  $(D_p)$  with pretreatment temperature, 191 192 suggests that dehydration after thermal treatment results in more compact and porous 193 Ni-Ni particle agglomerates.



Fig. S12. NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD profiles of the studied 2D layered DMC materials in the temperature
 range between 100 and 350 °C.

Some samples exhibit a peak truncated at 350 °C, which indicates that some NH<sub>3</sub> might be lost at higher temperatures. **Table S3** presents the acid site strength distribution, using a 225 °C threshold temperature as an arbitrary criterion to differentiate weak and strong acid centers. In terms of percentage, the acid center strength decreases in the following order: Ni-Ni>Mn-Ni≈Fe-Ni>Co-Ni.

	Catalyst		Acid	Sites stre	ngth, µmo	ol NH₃ g⁻¹		
	Catalyst		Weak <sup>a</sup>	Strong <sup>b</sup>				
	Ni-Ni		53			27	7	
	Co-Ni		81			73	3	
	Fe-Ni		24			3	0	
	Mn-Ni		5			7	,	
203 204	<sup>a</sup> Acid sites betwe <sup>b</sup> Acid	en 100 °C a sites	and 225 °C. between	225	°C	and	350	°C.

202	Table S3.	Acid sites	strength	distribution	for the	studied	2D la	yered DM	C materials.
								1	



Fig. S13. Number-weighted in-plane size (L) distribution of the studied 2D layered DMC materials.



Fig. S14. Number-weighted lateral size (t) distribution of the studied 2D layered DMCmaterials.

Number-weighted particle size distribution (PSD) was conducted using TEM images and ImageJ software. The ferret diameter of particles defined the length (L), while the minimum distance between the lateral face edges defined the thickness (t). For L measurements, 100 particles were counted, while for t measurements, 20 to 25 particles were counted. Data was fitted to the log-normal distribution. **Table S4** shows the most relevant statistical parameters.

217 **Table S4.** Mode, median, mean ( $\mu$ ), standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ), standard error (SE) and R-218 squared (R<sup>2</sup>) of the fitted peaks.

Sample	Measurement	Mode	Median	μ	σ	SE	R <sup>2</sup>
NI: NI:	L	34	41	46	21.98	2.19	0.9076
INI-INI	t	-	-	-	-	-	-
	L	189	253	295	177.14	17.71	0.8826
CO-INI	t	62	64	65	12.29	2.45	0.8407
	L	273	422	525	388.46	38.85	0.7281
re-ini	t	65	74	79	28.32	6.04	0.9268
		397	482	535	258.99	30.52	0 0072
Mp Ni	L	2818	3030	3144	870.03	164.00	0.9972
	+	106	137	157	85.92	28.64	0 0007
_	t	391	402	408	72.46	32.41	0.9027

220 **Table S5.** Comparison between experimental and expected values for surface area and

area, m² g⁻¹	Acid sites density, µmol m <sup>-2</sup>				
Geometric	$e_{abs}^{a}$	Experimental	Calculated	$e_{abs}{}^{a}$	
118.0	47.6	4.68	3.24	1.44	
37.0	2.7	3.87	3.19	0.68	
28.1	13.6	3.72	3.12	0.59	
5.4	2.0	3.51	3.07	0.44	
	area, m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> Geometric 118.0 37.0 28.1 5.4	area, m² g⁻¹Geometric $e_{abs}^a$ 118.047.637.02.728.113.65.42.0	area, $m^2 g^{-1}$ Acid sites dGeometric $e_{abs}^a$ Experimental118.047.64.6837.02.73.8728.113.63.725.42.03.51	area, $m^2 g^{-1}$ Acid sites density, $\mu mol m^{-2}$ Geometric $e_{abs}^a$ ExperimentalCalculated118.047.64.683.2437.02.73.873.1928.113.63.723.125.42.03.513.07	

<sup>a</sup> Absolute error measured as the absolute difference between experimental and
 calculated values.

224

225 To calculate the geometric external surface area, the values of  $S_P$  and  $V_P$  extracted from 226 TEM images (see Table 2) were used. As the samples are expected to be in their 227 dehydrated form during TEM, N<sub>2</sub> physisorption, and NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD analyses, the solid density 228  $(\rho_{cal})$  was determined based on the crystal structure of the trihydrate form, excluding 229 water molecules. The crystal structure of the dehydrated form was not employed for 230 calculations, as it exhibits short-range order and is even unresolved for some samples 231 considered here. For the Mn-Ni sample, the dimensions of the largest particles were 232 used to determine the geometric external surface area. The density of surface M' metal sites, or the density of surface acid sites, was calculated from the crystal structure of the 233 234 trihydrate phase. The unit cell dimensions were obtained from the XRD peak positions 235 in patterns corresponding to the trihydrate form. To establish the position of the (002) 236 plane, profile modeling was conducted in the corresponding angular region. Table S6 237 shows some resolved crystallographic details.

238 The reason why the calculated acid site density values are lower than the experimental 239 ones is that the calculations only consider the surface of the sheets, excluding defects, 240 grain boundaries, and even the lateral sides of the particles. The absolute error is particularly high in the Ni-Ni sample, where surface defect density is expected to be 241 242 higher and the r<sub>P</sub> value is close to one. For specific surface areas, the absolute error 243 between measured and calculated values can be attributed to particle agglomeration and 244 the divergence between the actual sample density and that determined from the trihydrate model without water molecules. Although the latter may be a reasonable 245 246 approximation, upon dehydration, 2D layered DMC complexes undergo negative thermal 247 expansion within the sheets and a reduction in interlayer space, resulting in an increased 248 particle density and consequently lower specific surface area values.

249 Table S6. Unit cell parameters, cell volume and calculated density of the trihydrate

		Catalysts	Cel	l param	ieters, Å	V, Å <sup>3</sup>	$ ho_{cal}{}^{a}, g$	cm⁻³
			a:		7.087			
		Ni-Ni	b:		14.102	871	1.4	104
			C:		8.714			
			a:		7.160			
		Co-Ni	b:		14.423	910	1.3	346
			C:		8.811			
			a:		7.273			
		Fe-Ni	b:		14.432	936	1.2	281
			C:		8.918			
			a:		7.330			
		Mn-Ni	b:		14.534	960	1.2	241
			C:		9.013			
251	а	Calculated	unit	cell	density	omitting	water	molecules.

250 form used for calculations.

	Sample	M′ <sup>a</sup>	Mª	Cl <sup>a</sup>	M′/M, at. at. <sup>-1</sup>	Cp	N <sup>b</sup>	C/N, at. at. <sup>−1</sup>	Estimated catalyst formulation
_	Ni-Ni	M′=M	: 56.4	3.8	-	19.2	20.7	1.08	-
	Co-Ni	26.0	26.5	0.9	0.98	22.0	24.5	1.05	Co <sub>0.98</sub> [Ni(CN) <sub>4.07</sub> ]Cl <sub>0.06</sub>
	Fe-Ni	20.2	28.9	0.2	0.74	24.5	26.2	1.09	Fe <sub>0.74</sub> [Ni(CN) <sub>3.80</sub> ]Cl <sub>0.01</sub>
	Mn-Ni	19.5	28.5	0.2	0.73	25.1	26.7	1.10	Mn <sub>0.73</sub> [Ni(CN) <sub>3.93</sub> ]Cl <sub>0.01</sub>

252 **Table S7.** Chemical composition (in wt%) of the studied 2D layered DMC materials.

<sup>a</sup> Determined from WDFRX and adjusted based on C and N values.
 <sup>b</sup> Determined from elemental analysis.

255 WDXRF is a semi-quantitative technique. Therefore, inorganic content was adjusted based on C and N values derived from elemental analysis.



257Fig. S15. SEC curves (log  $M_W$ ) of the copolymers produced by the studied 2D layered258materials.a)At90°Candb)at120°C.



Fig. S16. Relationship between electronegativity of the M' metal and a) PO conversion and b)  $CO_2$  selectivity. Electronegativity values were extracted from the Zhang scale.<sup>1</sup>



Fig. S17. Relationship between dehydration temperature and a) PO conversion and b)
CO<sub>2</sub> selectivity.















Fig. S25. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of the product derived from the Mn-Ni catalyst at 120 °C.



Fig. S26. Reactor temperature-time profiles for entry 1 (Table 5).

283 After the induction period, the propagation rate becomes so rapid and the polymerization is so exothermic that the generated heat cannot be dissipated guickly enough, which 284 285 leads to overheating. This temperature increase, in turn, triggers an autoacceleration 286 process, causing the polymerization to reach maximum conversion in just a few minutes. 287 However, such phenomenon negatively affects the catalytic performance of the Zn-Co 288 DMC complex by i) deactivating it or reducing its activity,<sup>6</sup> ii) reducing CO<sub>2</sub> incorporation, 289 iii) increasing PC production, iv) lowering molecular weights, and v) increasing 290 dispersion.



292 Fig. S27. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR region corresponding to the methyl resonance of PC (1.475-1.53 ppm) 293 for 5 (Table 5), (Table 4). entry and entry 6 and entry 3





295 Fig. S28. NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD profiles of the Zn-Co DMC and Co-Ni DMC complexes in

296 the temperature range between 100 and 350 °C.





Fig. S29. a) IR spectra of reaction mixture during the copolymerization of  $CO_2$  and PO in the presence of the Co-Ni DMC catalyst; b) *In situ* IR monitoring of absorbance profiles

301 at frequencies indicated (in cm<sup>-1</sup>).



302

Fig. S30. IR spectra of reaction mixture during the copolymerization of  $CO_2$  and PO in the presence of the Zn-Co DMC catalyst; b) *In situ* IR monitoring of absorbance profiles at frequencies indicated (in cm<sup>-1</sup>). The profile at 800 cm<sup>-1</sup> correspond to the PO starting material, 1800 cm<sup>-1</sup> is the cyclic PC band, 1745 cm<sup>-1</sup> is the PPC carbonyl band, and 1100 cm<sup>-1</sup> is the PPC ether band.

The evolution of the concentration of PO in the reaction mixture can be calculated by following the evolution with time of the IR signal at 830 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which is associated to the v(C-O-C) stretching mode of PO. According to the Beer-Lambert law, the absorbance of the peak at 830 cm<sup>-1</sup> at any time t (A<sub>t</sub>), is directly proportional to the product of the molar absorptivity ( $\varepsilon_{830}$ ), the optical path length (L) and the concentration of PO at such time t ([PO]<sub>t</sub>).

$$A_{t} = \varepsilon_{830} \cdot L \cdot [PO]_{t}$$
(S8)

314 Of course, the equation can be also applied for t=0.

$$A_0 = \varepsilon_{830} \cdot L \cdot [PO]_0 \tag{S9}$$

Combining **eqn. (S8)** with **eqn. (S9)**, an expression is obtained that relates changes in the absorbance of the signal at 830 cm<sup>-1</sup> with changes in the concentration of PO:

$$\frac{A_t}{A_0} = \frac{[PO]_t}{[PO]_0}$$
(S10)

Therefore, the conversion of PO ( $X_{PO}$ ) at each instant t can be calculated from the evolution of the absorbance of the peak at 830 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

$$X_{PO} = 1 - \frac{[PO]_{t}}{[PO]_{0}} = 1 - \frac{A_{t}}{A_{0}}$$
 (S11)



Fig. S31. Basic characterization of the Zn-Co DMC catalyst. a) XRD spectrum, b)
FT-IR spectrum (Inset: v(CN) spectral region), c) N<sub>2</sub> physisorption isotherm and d) SEM
image.

The Zn-Co DMC complex employed was synthesized following the procedure describedin the manuscript for the 2D layered DMC compounds.

According to the XRD pattern (**Fig. S27.a**), the material obtained was composed of two well-differentiated crystallographic phases. The expected 3D cubic lattice structure ( $\blacksquare$ , ICDD 01-076-5029), in which both the [Co(CN)<sub>6</sub>]<sup>3-</sup> molecular block and the Zn<sup>2+</sup> cation adopt a six-fold coordination, and a laminar structure with hexagonal unit cell ( $\blacklozenge$ ) in which the molecular block retains its octahedral coordination but Zn<sup>2+</sup> takes a tetragonal coordination geometry. The layers extend in the ab-plane and are connected to each
 other by CI atoms and/or TBA molecules.<sup>7</sup>

The coexistence of both crystallographic phases can be easily discerned by observing the v(CN) region of the IR spectrum (inset in **Fig. S27.b**). The deconvolution returns two peaks, one at 2177 cm<sup>-1</sup> associated with the cubic phase, and another at 2195 cm<sup>-1</sup> associated with the layered phase. In addition, in the FT-IR spectrum it can be observed how the Zn-Co DMC complex retains appreciable amounts of TBA in its structure, as well as water.

In N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption isotherm (**Fig. S27.c**), a very large initial N<sub>2</sub> adsorption is observed, which warns of the presence of micropores in the structure. At the same time, a hysteresis loop of the type H4 is observed, which is related to narrow slit-like pores derived from aggregates of layered materials.<sup>8</sup>

The SEM image (**Fig. S27.d**) provides a clear view of the lamellar structure surrounded by small pseudo cubic particles.

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