

## Preface

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### **FIRST WORKSHOP OF COST 523, 'NANOMATERIALS', 20–22 OCTOBER 1999, FRASCATI, ITALY**

This special issue of *Applied Organometallic Chemistry* contains papers presented at the First Workshop of COST 523, 'Nanomaterials', organized by ENEA and held during 20–22 October 1999, at Frascati, Italy.

Founded in 1971, COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research. Within COST, nationally funded research is coordinated on a European level. COST Actions comprise mainly basic and pre-competitive research, as well as activities of public utility. Details can be found on the COST Web page <http://www.netmaniacs.com/cost>.

COST Action 523, 'Nano-structured Materials', was launched in February 1998 for a period of 6 years. The main objective of the action is to develop nano-structured materials with new and unique structural and functional properties. Research activities of 21 European countries are coordinated to achieve the critical mass for breakthroughs of new materials for industrial applications. A COST 523 Web page has been set up at <http://COST523.epfl.ch>. The participating countries are Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the UK.

The aim of the workshop was to catalyse the unfolding of the action and to provide focus and

impetus. In particular, the orientation of the COST 523 research work was demarcated through discussions with participants from industry and the identification of synergies and overlap with other programmes, like the EU 5th Framework Programme.

Participants from 19 European countries, among them representatives of several industries, joined the Workshop, attesting to the importance of the nanomaterials discipline.

For this reason, the papers collected cover a wide spectrum of research work on nanomaterials. They may help the reader to know the state of the art in Europe for nanostructured materials, to facilitate contacting research groups and to understand the possible applications, in different fields, that are likely to have a relevant breakthrough in the near future.

We would like to thank the researchers who, with their work, have contributed to the success of the meeting.

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