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Editorial

Following the success of the European Symposium *Catalysis in Multiphase Reactors* held at Lyon, France, 7–9 December 1994, the papers printed here were presented at the Second Conference with the same themes, which took place in Toulouse, France, 16–18 March 1998.

Multiphase catalytic reactions are widely used in industry. Academic studies are often restricted to either the catalyst design, the reaction kinetics or the hydrodynamics and transfers in multiphase reactors. It was clearly demonstrated at the first *Catalysis in Multiphase Reactors* symposium that specific problems of practical and scientific interest arise when coupling catalysis and reaction engineering.

Papers from industry and from academy were solicited in the hope of bringing the two sets of workers into close contact by sharing ideas via presentations or perhaps, best of all, in the informal interchanges within this three-day conference.

The conference was expected to cover a wide range of topics and this expectation has been fulfilled in the variety of papers offered by industrial and academic authors. The papers may be classified as follows:

- Kinetics of catalytic multiphase reactions
- Mass transfer effects in batch reactions
- Continuous multiphase catalytic reactors
- Liquid phase catalysis
- New multiphase catalytic techniques and reactors

The conference follows the modern trend towards publication of conference papers in refereed journals. The papers published in this special issue of *Catalysis Today* were selected, after reviewing and revisions, while all the initial texts were collected in the conference proceedings available at the conference. More consistent attendance at the conference was thus achieved as well as good quality final papers.

I would like to thank the members of the Organizing Committee and of the Scientific Committee for their assistance to make this meeting a success and all the reviewers and authors for their valuable efforts to attain the high quality of this special issue devoted to CMR2.

Henri Delmas
Chairman