

Foreword

The European Federation of Catalysis Societies (EFCATS) is organized biennially since 1993 European Congresses on Catalysis. The Fourth Congress "EuropaCat-IV" was held in Rimini, Italy on 5–10 September 1999. It has been a very important meeting creating an excellent opportunity for the participants from academia and industry to meet each other, exchange new viewpoints, update the scientific challenges, and renovate friendships.

Catalysis provides key technologies for solving many of the fundamental technological challenges, which face the mankind — efficient utilization of the raw materials, development of new materials with preprogrammed properties, production of new clean sources of energy including new clean fuels. The catalytic processes are the most essential part of contemporary chemical and petrochemical industries. More than 70% of the processes in them are catalytic, while for the newly introduced ones this percentage is above 90%. Chemical and related process oriented companies are also increasingly realizing that the sustainable development of their industries will depend critically upon the development of new and improved catalytic processes. These will be more efficient and environmentally benign in terms of their raw material and energy utilization and will lead to reduced or zero production of unwanted by-products.

With catalytic processes at the core of the chemical and many related processing industries, the need to challenge and overcome the reluctance of companies involved in catalysis to co-operate is of critical importance if European companies are to achieve and sustain competitive advantage in global markets. This means to become more open to all forms of co-operation

in order to accelerate the delivery of innovation and enable better integration of the chain from the catalyst developer to the user of the catalytic process.

The topic of the Symposium No. 2, *Catalysis for Refining and Fuels Reformulation* of EuropaCat-IV has great importance for solving some of the existing problems in environmental protection, transportation and industry in the contemporary society.

The policy of EFCATS is to publish proceedings containing only abstracts of the accepted papers. The decision to publish all contributions in full size was left to the Chairman of the different symposia from which the Congress was constituted. Taking into account the above mentioned, as Chairmen of the Symposium No. 2, we decided to publish in full size all accepted papers in order to make them available to the whole catalysis community.

The present special issue of *Catalysis Today* contains the scientific contributions accepted for presentation on the Symposium — the Symposium keynote lecture, oral presentations and posters.

The papers deal with problems connected with kinetics and mechanism of the catalytic processes for oil processing like hydrodesulfurization, reforming, alkylation, cracking, etc., development of new catalysts and catalytic technologies for production of new clean fuels with improved composition.

We hope that the present special issue of *Catalysis Today* will be useful for a broad number of readers from different areas of catalysis.

D. Sanfilippo*, L. Petrov
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