



Preface

The electrochemical promotion of catalytic reactions (EPOC) or non-Faradaic electrochemical modification of catalytic activity (NEMCA effect), permits in situ control of the activity and selectivity of conductive catalysts in contact with solid electrolytes or aqueous alkaline solutions. Although it has been established by a number of techniques that electrochemical promotion is due to Faradaic introduction of promoting ionic species at the catalyst surface, there still remain several important open questions about the origin of the effect and also about its practical utilization. The European Union, as part of the 6th Framework Programme has established a Marie Curie Action named EFEPOC (European Forum on Electrochemical Promotion of Catalysis) (<http://www.efepoc.com>) which is led by Dr. Philippe Vernoux at CNRS, Lyon, and which supports a number of activities (two Conferences, three Summer Schools) for the discussion of new results and the training of young researchers in this interdisciplinary area.

The first Conference of this Marie Curie Action, named OREPOC (Origin of EPOC) was held in Thessaloniki in October 2007 and the second named EPOCAP (applications of EPOC), related with this special issue, was held at Oléron Island, France in September–October 2008.

Some of the new results discussed at the Oléron conference are presented by the sixteen papers of this volume. Papers 1–6 focus

on the fundamentals of the EPOC and permanent EPOC origin, papers 7–15 discuss potential applications of NEMCA while papers 16 and 17 present results concerning the preparation and characterization of catalysts.

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