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Preface

This special issue of *Catalysis Today* is a collection of thirty three peer-reviewed papers originally presented in the *2nd European Conference on Environmental Applications of Advanced Oxidation Processes* (EAAOP-2). Following the success of EAAOP-1 conference held in Chania, Greece in 2006, EAAOP-2, which was co-organized by the Technical University of Crete, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the University of Cyprus, took place in Nicosia, Cyprus from 9 to 11 September 2009. The event hosted about 180 oral and poster presentations, as well as four plenary lectures on all aspects of AOPs for water, wastewater, soil and air treatment and remediation.

The emphasis of this special issue is on advanced catalytic processes for environmental protection and remediation. The beneficial role of catalysis in AOPs is, in a broad sense, twofold since catalysts generate reactive oxygen species (e.g. hydroxyl radicals) needed to initiate redox reactions and also accelerate the kinetics of the respective non-catalytic reactions. In this light, the development, characterization and testing of active, stable and inexpensive catalysts is of great importance and several special issue papers deal with this topic. Other topics include the catalytic degradation of micro-pollutants such as pharmaceuticals and pesticides in various aqueous matrices, coupling heterogeneous or homogeneous photocatalysis with biological processes to enhance treatment efficiency, electrochemical oxidation over novel materials such as boron-doped diamond anodes, and many more.

We wish to thank the Editorial Board of the Journal, and in particular Associate Editor Prof. James Spivey, who gave us the opportunity to compile this special issue; special thanks are also due to Rosie Malone, manager of *Catalysis Today*, for her invaluable assistance in putting everything together. Finally, we are indebted to all the reviewers who helped making this issue an important reference material.

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