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Preface

Manfred Grasserbauer^a; Erwin Rosenberg^a

^a Institute of Analytical Chemistry Vienna University of Technology Vienna, Austria

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PREFACE

This volume contains selected papers presented at the 26th International Symposium on Environmental Analytical Chemistry which took place in Vienna, Austria, on April 9–12, 1996. The symposium was jointly organised by the International Association of Environmental Analytical Chemistry and the Institute of Analytical Chemistry at the Vienna University of Technology. More than 500 scientists from the whole of Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan participated in this conference and contributed to its scientific success. The 60 invited and contributed lectures provided a comprehensive overview of the scope of Environmental Analytical Chemistry, its present technical and methodological possibilities and limitations and also discussed the state of the art of Europe's environment. They stimulated vivid discussion and scientific exchange which was continued during the poster sessions where more than 300 poster contributions have been on display during the conference. From the numerous topics that have been presented in the different technical sessions, new developments in sample preparation and hyphenated techniques, water contamination monitoring, specimen banking, sensors and quality assurance in environmental analysis could be identified as focal points.

The selection made in this volume is far from covering all topics dealt with at the conference. It might however give a good impression of the high level of quality and the diversity of the work presented at the conference and of the liveliness and activity in the field of Environmental Analytical Chemistry.

The next two events in the series of International Symposia on Environmental Analytical Chemistry will be held in Jekyll Island, Georgia, U.S.A. (June 1997) and in Geneva, Switzerland (March 1998).

Manfred Grasserbauer

Chairman ISEAC 26

Erwin Rosenberg

Secretary General ISEAC 26

Institute of Analytical Chemistry

Vienna University of Technology

Vienna, Austria