

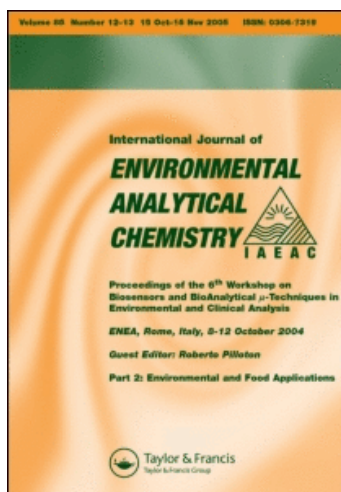
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Preface

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Preface

This issue contains selected papers presented at the 3rd Euroconference on Environmental Analytical Chemistry (EUCON EAC 3) which was held in Chalkidike, Greece, from 9–15 October 1999. The conference was the third and concluding event in the first series of Euroconferences devoted to particular topics in environmental analytical chemistry, established under and with financial support of the European Union, Programme “Training and Mobility of Researchers” (TMR). It was jointly organised by the Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Institute of Analytical Chemistry of the Vienna University of Technology.

The conference brought together about 100 scientists from different European countries. It was a place of fruitful scientific exchange between senior experts and young researchers to whom particular attention was given at this conference in compliance with the aims of the TMR Programme. The selection of papers presented in this issue is certainly far from complete. It may however still give a good overview of the topics that were presented and discussed at this conference. These included the development of new extraction and sample preparation techniques, advances in speciation analysis and element specific detection techniques, the use of optical and chemical sensors for environmental monitoring, and the use of bioanalytical and immunological techniques, to name just the most important trends. In addition to the methodological developments, the results of a number of environmental studies are presented. As a whole, the papers that have been compiled in this proceedings volume give an excellent picture of the status of environmental analytical chemistry at the end of the 20th century and on the turn to a new century. It demonstrates that environmental analytical chemists are prepared to face the challenges the future will bring.

This Preface offers me also a good opportunity to thank all those individuals and institutions who have contributed to the organisation of this event. My particular thanks go to Prof. A. Voulgaropoulos, the Chairman, and Prof. I. Stratis, the Co-chairman of this conference, and to Z. Loukou, the Conference Secretary, whose enthusiasm and dedication have been essential for the success of this con-

ference. Prof. J. Albaiges is also thanked for the enormous support in the preparation of this special issue.

Finally, I should like to give my thanks to all participants of the Euroconference who have contributed to making this event a highly successful one both from the scientific point of view and from that of human relations. I do hope that you have returned from this conference rewarded by many new ideas and positive personal experiences. This is the motivation to pursue the path that has been commenced in 1997 with the second series of Euroconferences which are to take place in the years 2000 – 2002 under the 5th Framework Programme of the European Union, Programme “Improving Human Potential”.

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