

The title of the conference “(BIO) DEGRADABLE POLYMERS FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES” puts the (bio) degradability on the first place, although it is only a certain feature of the important polymers for the future – namely polymers from renewable resources. Indeed, for purely technical reasons (availability of the raw materials) as well as for the economical (instability of the prices of oil) and political reasons that we are witnessing today, an alternative and sustainable source of raw materials for polymers is of paramount importance. All of the currently known polymers that belong to this class are also (bio) degradable. Thus, these polymers may also solve another problem: the accumulating amount of waste.

The extensive application of various materials results in an increasing volume of waste, and methods are needed for its safe and relatively quick elimination from the environment. The development of materials based on bio- and hydrolytically degradable polymers from renewable resources is considered to be the most plausible solution of the problem mentioned above. Degradable polymers are being used for general purposes such as packaging and for specialized ones in the area of medicine (e.g. drug delivery and tissue engineering). These aspects have been covered in lectures and poster presentations at the

International Conference (BIO) DEGRADABLE POLYMERS FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES. The conference was organized in Vienna from the 18th to the 21st November 2007 by the:

- Centre of Molecular and Macromolecular Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Lodz (Poland), the
- Institute of Biotechnology and Biochemical Engineering, Graz University of Technology (Austria), the
- Scientific Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Vienna (Austria), and the
- International Network (Bio)degradable Polymers from Renewable Resources

It was held under the auspices of the European Polymer Federation.

The Conference gathered hundred and ten attendees from twenty two countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Republic of China (Taiwan), The Netherlands, United Kingdom and the USA. The highest number of participants came from Poland, Romania, Austria, Germany and Italy.

This volume consists of papers based on invited lectures and on some selected poster presentations.

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