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Foreword

The 10th European Conference on Liquid Crystals (ECLC 2009) held in Colmar, France from 19–24 April 2009. It was organized by the Institut de Physique et Chimie des Matériaux de Strasbourg (IPCMS) and the Institut Charles Sadron (ICS). More than 250 participants attended the meeting which was organized in sessions ranging from self-organisation, structure, polymers and elastomers, display applications to new topics in the domain such as molecular electronics, biomaterials, hybrid liquid crystals containing nanoparticles. Six plenary lectures, 24 invited lectures, 110 oral communications and 223 posters were presented, covering most of the aspects of liquid crystal research from fundamental studies to new potential applications.

Let us warmly thank our sponsors: the private industrial companies T&A instruments, INEL, Wolfberger and Taylor & Francis; the research organisations CNRS, the University of Strasbourg and the Pôle of Materials and Nanosciences in Elsass (PMNA); our local authorities, the City of Colmar, The Elsass Region and the Conseil Général du Haut-Rhin; and finally our research institutes IPCMS and CNRS. Without them, the conference would not have been so successful.

But the success of the conference was also due to the deep involvement of the local organizing committee in all the tasks connected to the meeting, many months in advance for the preparation and always available during the meeting. We are grateful to all of them.

We finally address our thanks to the contributors to this special issue and to the reviewers of the papers.

March 2010
Daniel Guillon and Yves Galerne