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### Foreword

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## Foreword

The Euromembrane Conference of the European Membrane Society is the main scientific event organized every two years in Europe with the aim to present and discuss the researches carried out in the membrane science and engineering field.

Euromembrane 2006 was held in Giardini Naxos, Taormina, Italy, on September 24–28, 2006, and it was organized by the Institute on Membrane Technology of the National Research Council of Italy (ITM-CNR) in cooperation with the University of Calabria, the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials of the University of Calabria, and the Centre of Excellence of the University of Calabria on Functional Nanostructured Materials (CEMIF.CAL).

Contributions from 46 Countries were included in the scientific program both as poster (350) and oral communications (220). Moreover, five plenary lectures were presented on:

- Electromembrane processes
- Proton conducting membranes
- Membrane electrode assemblies
- Atomistic modelling
- Environmental engineering

The topics discussed during the Conference have been:

- Membrane fouling and characterization
- Microfiltration/ultrafiltration
- Nanofiltration/reverse osmosis
- Electromembrane processes
- Water treatment
- Novel membranes, modules and processes
- Polymeric membranes
- Biomedical applications
- Membranes in nanotechnology and process intensification
- Membrane contactors, distillation, emulsifiers

- Membranes in life science
- Fuel cell
- Food applications
- Inorganic and zeolite membranes
- Hybrid membranes and processes
- Membrane reactors
- Transport in membranes and modelling
- Gas and vapour separations
- Submerged membrane bioreactors
- Facilitated transport membranes
- Membrane bioseparations

The wide spectrum of the subjects covered during the Conference gives an evidence of the role membrane science and engineering has today in the development of industrial processes and on the quality of our life.

In this special issue of the Journal of Separation Science and Technology some selected contributions from Euromembrane 2006 concerning the preparation and characterization of membranes are provided.

We wish to acknowledge the contributions of our sponsors (European Membrane Society, ITM-CNR, Centre of Excellence CEMIF.CAL, University of Calabria, the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials of the University of Calabria, Solvay Solexis, Eurodia, Renco, Zenon, Elsevier) to the success of the Conference.

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