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Preface

The present issue of *Catalysis Today* is devoted to the different aspects of catalysis and their key societal challenges. The papers included here are based on contributions presented at the 5th Paul Sabatier Conference, held between 13 and 17 September 2007, in Obernai, France.

Besides continuing the conference Paul Sabatier tradition and providing a forum for the dissemination of the latest results in catalysis, this conference was planned to address the future of research in the field of heterogeneous catalysis and to stimulate the interaction between academia and industry. During this event, a sense of optimism pervaded the meeting: the number of participants was again at the customary level, and several collaborations between European partners appear to be thriving.

A total of 18 papers have been accepted for publication in this special issue of *Catalysis Today*.

We trust that they will clearly convey the message that the field, although dubbed “mature”, is still exciting and has a bright future!

Guest Editors

François Garin¹

Pierre Légaré

Benoît Louis *

*Laboratoire des Matériaux Surfaces et Procédés pour la Catalyse,
LMSPC - UMR 7515 CNRS University Louis Pasteur,
25 rue Becquerel, 67087 Strasbourg, France*

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +33 390 242760

E-mail address: blouis@chimie.u-strasbg.fr (B. Louis)

¹Tel.: +33 390 242737.