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### Preface

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## PREFACE

The analysis of surface waters for the determination of toxic major and trace elements and organic compounds (e.g. PCBs, PAHs, pesticides) is nowadays required in the frame of some EC Directives for the monitoring of the quality of the environment. The need for a good quality control of surface water analysis has led the Measurements and Testing Programme (BCR) to organize series of interlaboratory studies over the last ten years, including the preparation of certified reference materials for the improvement and quality assurance of these determinations. However, the quality control of critical analytical steps such as e.g. sampling and storage has not been considered in classical interlaboratory exercises.

At this stage, it was necessary to establish the state of the art of surface water analysis, including sampling and sample pre-treatment procedures, to investigate where limitations exist and propose solutions to overcome these, and to discuss the trends expected in the field of inorganic and organic analysis of surface water. To answer this necessity, the Measurements and Testing Programme (BCR) of the European Commission has decided to launch a workshop on Trends in Surface Water Analysis which was organized in collaboration with the Empresa Portuguesa das Aguas Livres (EPAL, Lisbon) and held in Lisbon on 23–25 January 1994. The chairman of the workshop was Ph. Quevauviller. The local organizing committee was chaired by M. J. Benoliel; members were M. C. Batista, E. A. Maier and M. F. Neves. The workshop was attended by 47 participants from 10 European countries. The aspects of sampling and sample preservation were thoroughly discussed and recognized to be one of the analytical step that should receive most attention in the next few years. Noticeable trends were the development of on-line measurement techniques for the monitoring of contaminants in water.

This special issue of *The International Journal of Environmental Analytical Chemistry* contains selected (peer reviewed) papers covering the analytical expertise of the group of participants, as well as a summary paper giving the conclusions of the round-table discussions.

The editors thank their colleagues for their contributions to the success of the workshop.

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