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PREFACE

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PREFACE

This volume contains some selected papers presented at the 4th Soil and Sediment Contaminant Analysis Workshop (SSCAW-4) held in Lausanne, Switzerland, on the 22-25 september 1996. The event was organized by the International Association of Environmental Analytical Chemistry and the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. The three first Workshops of this series took place in Winnipeg (1988 and 1993) and in Lausanne (1991). The Proceedings of all these workshops had appeared in special issues of the *Intern. J. Environ. Anal. Chem.* (Volume 39/1-2, Volume 46/1-3, Volume 59/2-3).

The 4th Workshop gathered scientists from Western and Eastern Europe but also from Canada and United States, Africa and Asia.

Most of the sessions were dedicated to the analysis and monitoring of organic pollutants and pesticides in soils and sediments, less lectures than in previous workshops were dedicated to heavy metals contamination and few lectures discussed on other inorganic compounds. The papers published in this volume reflect this diversity of approaches and problems related with soil and sediment contamination. Poster sessions and social activities gave the opportunity to attendants to discuss on their common interests in a friendly and warm atmosphere.

In terms of analytical techniques some relevant points can be pointed after the SSCAW-4. The use of supercritical fluid extraction methods appeared to be still more familiar but also the limits of these methods are now well defined. Before each type of extraction SFE needs a long time of preliminar testing to define the best conditions of pressure, time, humidity and modifier. It results that this technique cannot be considered a routine method in most of the cases. Some other methods of extraction and clean-up are appearing very promising. Is the case of solid phase micro extraction (SPME), accelerated solvent extraction (ASE) and immunoaffinity.

In terms of pollutants behaviour in soils and sediments, this Workshop showed that speciation is a powerful approach to understand the dynamics of heavy metals and that, for organic pollutants, labelled molecules are useful to study all

at once their distribution and transport and the binding forces with the soil or sediment matrix. New informations on the role of dissipation and volatilization on the global transport of pesticides were also presented.

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