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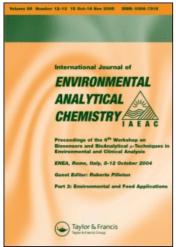
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## Foreword

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## **FOREWORD**

This special issue of International Journal of Environmental Analytical Chemistry is devoted to papers presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Euroconference on Environmental Analytical Chemistry that with the title Environmental Analytical Chemistry for the Protection of Sensitive Ecosystems took place in Córdoba (Spain) between 31 October and 6 November, 1998. This Conference was part of the "Training and Mobility Program of Researchers" of the European Union, including the organization of three conferences on Environmental Analytical Chemistry (EUCON EAC). The Conference sessions were held at the Hotel Hesperia, located in front of the Guadalquivir river, near a protected ecosystem called Albolafia, quite unique for its urban location, that became as the symbol of the Euroconference.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> Euroconference was attended by around 100 participants with specific recognition being given to young scientists from less favoured regions and female reseachers. Prominent scientists were invited to participate as speakers who addressed important topics about the role played by Analytical Chemistry in the protection of sensitive ecosystems. Sampling, "in situ" monitoring, sample handling, speciation, remediation, modelling, novel techniques, and quality assurance, were the topics discussed. Part of these presentations are compiled in this special issue which contains full refereed papers.

We would like to thank all the participants to the Euroconference and, particularly, the authors of the papers, as well as the referees, mainly members of the Scientific Committee, and the IJEAC Editor for their contribution to this special issue.

Finally, we wish to thank the Chairperson of the Conference, Prof. Miguel Valcárcel, and the Analytical Chemistry Department of the University of Córdoba for their cooperation in the organization of the event, and the sponsoring institutions, the Commission of the European Communities, the University of Córdoba, the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture, and the Junta de Andalucia (regional government) for the financial support, which is greatly appreciated.

Dolores Pérez-Bendito

Co-Chairperson

Soledad Rubio

Secretary