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### Preface

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## Preface

This is the Third International Conference on Aging and Stabilization of Polymers. It is arranged on the basis of the former organization "Unity of Academies of Sciences of States of Eastern Europe" in the field of Macromolecular Compounds.

The first Conference was held in 1989 in Moscow in the Institute of Chemical Physics and was organized by the Division of Chemical and Biological Kinetics.† The second Conference was arranged by the Slovak Academy of Sciences in High Tatras (Chairman of Organizing Committee was Dr. L. Ryhla-Matisova) in 1990. During that meeting two essential decisions were made:

- to hold the third Conference in October, 1992 in Moscow in the Institute of Chemical Physics;
- to invite experts in the field of Aging and Stabilization of Polymers from around the world to participate in the Conference.

During the last two years there were essential changes in Eastern Europe which could be characterized as Degradation (without stabilization).

Since the 1st of January of 1992 the Unity of Academy of Sciences of States of Eastern Europe was disbanded, and on December 1991 the Soviet Union disappeared. Nevertheless the Conference was held. More than 200 scientists from Russia and States of the former USSR participated in this Conference as well as experts from the USA, Belgium, Portugal, Germany, Slovakia, United Kingdom, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, Poland and Romania.

This was made possible by the sponsorship of Western Companies from the Netherlands (AKZO), Switzerland (Ciba-Geigy), the USA (Uniroyal Chemical and Kiser Research) and Italy (AMC SPREA and Montedison). The Organizing Committee is very grateful to these Companies and their representatives Robert Benema, Marsel Zegger, Peter Lips, Walter Winkler, Reiner Shaad, Roland Fluckiger, Francesco Russo, Davide Ruggi, Giorgio Canelli, Germano Garghentini, Tomas Brett, Paul Stott, John Kiser, Vladimir Arkhanguel'skii and Nikolay Blinov. We also express our thanks to the Authorities of the Institute of Chemical Physics, Professor Elena B. Burlakova and Sergei A. Tsyganov and to the Deputy Director of the Institute of Elemento-Organic Compounds, Professor Peter M. Valetskii.

One example of the process of Degradation of former Soviet science should be mentioned. In 1984 more than 100 Research Centres and more than 1000 scientists

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†This Department was founded by Professor Nikolay M. Emanuel. Until his death (December 1984), he also was the Head of Unity of Academies of Sciences of Communist States on Aging and Stabilization of Polymers. Since 1985 this position has been held by his disciple Professor G. E. Zaikov.

were involved in research into the Degradation and Stabilization of polymers. In the last two years the number of scientists was reduced twofold, and this not due to the solution of the problem of polymer degradation in our country or in the world. The reason is that the current Russian Government provides Full Professor with an annual salary of only 200 US dollars, which is lower than the salary of a janitor in the Moscow Metro and much lower than the salary of a bus driver.

Nevertheless, science is still alive, and in spite of all the troubles and economic problems, single enthusiasts continue their studies and obtain results, which are essential for the theoretical development of Polymer Science and for its practical applications.

The proof of the aforesaid statement could be found by readers of the present Proceedings. By the way, the title of this Conference was proposed by a Member of Presidium of Russian Academy of Sciences, the Chairman of the Scientific Council on Macromolecules, Professor Victor A. Kabanov; instead of the traditional title "Degradation and Stabilization of Polymers". The present meeting was a combination of the 3rd International and 9th All-Union Conferences. Since 1960 such Conferences were held in our country once every 4 years. The 8th Conference was held in 1989 in Dushanbe (Tajikistan), where the decision to arrange the 9th Conference in Moscow in 1992 was made. This decision was hopefully executed.

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