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Foreword

The 9th Symposium on Handling of Environmental and Biological Samples in Chromatography was organized by the IAEAC (International Association of Environmental and Analytical Chemistry) and the IAREN (Water Institute of the Northern Region) and sponsored by Fundacao para a Ciencia e Tecnologia. It was co-sponsored by Merck, Burdinola, and IST (International Sorbent Technology).

The Symposium was held in Porto, a beautiful city with great traditions related closely to the birth of the Portuguese Nation, enriched by a tradition of artists, writers and poets, film directors, musicians and universities.

The aim of the 9th Symposium was to deal with all qualitative and quantitative aspects of this topic, including technical developments, theoretical considerations, and applications of the techniques in environmental, biological and pharmaceutical analysis. The meeting was attended by ca. 225 participants from countries all over the world. The scientific program comprised of 56 lectures and 127 poster presentations. It was divided into three specific sessions: molecularly imprinted polymers for chemi-

cal analysis (MICA), handling of organic pollutants in effluents, the Waste Water Cluster (WWC) and handling of biological samples. The two first sessions correspond to the two largest European Union-funded cluster projects, MICA and WWC.

The Symposium offered an excellent opportunity to bring together scientists working at universities and public research organizations, providing useful contracts and exchanges, in a friendly and a scientifically productive atmosphere.

I would like to thank the institutions that contributed with financial support and all those who contributed with suggestions to make this Symposium a success.

It is our great pleasure to announce that the 10th Symposium on Handling of Environmental and Biological Samples in Chromatography will take place from 1–4 April 2001 in Mainz, Germany with Dr. Th. Knepper as chairman.

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