



Editorial

Since their introduction in organic synthesis as a new class of solvents more than ten years ago, the interest for using ionic liquids in organic catalysis has been rapidly increasing. This intense interest mainly originates from their unique and fascinating wide range of physico-chemical properties. Their tunable polarity and hard/soft character, their negligible vapor pressure, and their adjustable solvating ability, make them quite different from classical organic solvents and make possible the development of novel technologies. The diversity of their properties is demonstrated by their broad range of potential applications going from organic drug synthesis to high capacity batteries and novel speciality chemicals.

When used as solvents for catalysis, they may offer improved solvent properties and in some cases chemical

advantages such as improved rate and reaction yield. In addition, because of their unique miscibility properties with organic substrates, they may solve the problem of homogeneous catalyst separation and recycling.

For these reasons, the undersigned editors were invited by *Jean-Marie BASSET*, *Editor of Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical*, to gather most of the representative disciplines of this topic into a special issue of the *Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical*.

We thank very much all the contributors for the high quality of their work.

Hélène Olivier-Bourbigou
Yves Chauvin