



Editorial

The first European Symposium on Polymer Derived Ceramics (PDCs) has been held in Strasbourg (France), May 24–28, 2004 during the annual spring meeting of the European Material Research Society (E-MRS). Owing to the multidisciplinary character of PDCs field running from Synthetic Inorganic and Organometallic Chemistry, Polymer Chemistry, Materials Science and Engineering to Solid State Physics and Modelling, the aim of this Conference was to gather scientists coming from different but complementary disciplines in a European meeting. It appeared also worthwhile to the organizers to prepare a single issue of the Journal of the European Ceramic Society, dedicated to this symposium and containing reviews and regular papers. This volume well reflects the broad range of research activities and the high scientific level of the contributions presented at the Symposium, and constitutes an interesting updated overview of the PDCs topic.

In the mind of the organizers, this European PDCs Symposium is also destined to take place periodically, becoming the European parallel of the workshops organized at Boulder (Colorado, USA) by Rishi Raj and his colleagues. Organizers have also really appreciated the excellent atmosphere prevailing during both the scientific and social activities which favoured the exchanges between the scientists of the community and should foster international collaborations, contributing to the development of the Polymer Derived Ceramics field.

Thanks are due to all the participants of this conference, invited speakers and oral contributors, and session chairs who have participated to the success of the conference. The organizers would also like to give sincere thanks for financial support to: La Société Française de Chimie, EADS ST (France), University of Darmstadt (Germany), University of Trento (Italy).