

Foreword

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The electrochemical promotion of catalytic reactions (EPOC) or non-Faradaic electrochemical modification of catalytic activity (NEMCA effect) permits in situ control of the activity and selectivity of conductive catalysts in contact with solid electrolytes or aqueous alkaline solutions. Although it has been established by a number of techniques that electrochemical promotion is due to Faradaic introduction of promoting ionic species at the catalyst surface, there still remain several important open questions about the origin of the effect and also about its practical utilization. The European Union, as part of the 6th Framework Programme has established a Marie Curie Action named EFEPOC (European Forum on Electrochemical Promotion of Catalysis, <http://www.efepoc.com>)

which is led by Dr. Philippe Vernoux at CNRS, Lyon, and which supports a number of activities (two Conferences, three training courses) for the discussion of new results and the training of young researchers in this interdisciplinary area.

The first Conference of this Marie Curie Action, named OREPOC (Origin of EPOC) was held in Thessaloniki in October 2007 and some of the new results discussed there are presented in the 13 papers of this volume. Papers 1–5 focus on the fundamentals of the EPOC and permanent EPOC origin, papers 6–11 discuss new systems and concepts, while papers 12 and 13 address some of the basic and practical problems associated with the practical utilization of electrochemical promotion.

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