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## Preface

The 6th European Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (ESTAC 6) was held in Grado, Italy, on 11–16 September, 1994, following a well-established series of meetings for scientists working with the many different aspects of energetic transformation and their measurement through thermal and calorimetric methods. The first meeting was organised at the University of Salford, UK, in 1976, as “First European Symposium on Thermal Analysis (ESTA 1). The subsequent venues were Aberdeen, UK, in 1981 (ESTA 2), and Interlaken, Switzerland, in 1984 (ESTA 3). Widening of themes of the Symposium added the term “Calorimetry” to the original acronym, giving the present ESTAC name to the next meetings in Jena, East Germany (1987) and in Nice, France (1991). ESTAC 6 was held under the sponsorship of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Società Chimica Italiana, Associazione Italiana di Calorimetria e Analisi Termica, Gruppo Interdivisionale di Calorimetria e Analisi Termica, University of Trieste, and of Regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Alpe-Adria Community, University of Pavia and University of Turin.

The scientific and logistic programmes were undertaken and managed by the following Committees.

ESTAC Committee. Chairperson: J. Rouquerol (France); Secretary: W. Ludwig (Germany); Members: V. Balek (Czech Republic), G. Barone (Italy), V. Boldyrev (Russia), S. Bordas-Alsinas (Spain), E. Charsley (UK), G. Hakvoort (The Netherlands), W. Hemminger (Germany), A. Langier-Kuzniarova (Poland), G. Liptay (Hungary), E. Marti (Switzerland), E. Segal (Romania), T. Sørensen (Denmark).

Scientific Programme Committee. Chairpersons: A. Cesàro (Trieste), I. Kikic (Trieste); Members: G. Barone (Naples), A. Buri (Naples), G. Della Gatta (Turin), G. Flor (Pavia), M. Richardson (Teddington), J. Rouquerol (Marseilles), A. Schiraldi (Milan), J. Sêsták (Rez).

Organising Committee. Chairperson: G. Costa (Trieste); Secretary: A. Cesàro (Trieste), Members: P. Alessi (Trieste), A. Bachiorrini (Udine), J. Cumani (Trieste), F. Delben (Trieste), P. Ferloni (Pavia), M. Fermeglia (Trieste), S. Meriani (Trieste), R. Portanova (Udine), A. Tomasi (Trento).

More than 350 scientists participated and presented some 400 contributions on the application, theory and advances of thermal analysis and calorimetry applications.

The scientific programme included four sections (Materials, Environment and Industry, Life Sciences and Solutions, Methodologies). In addition, eight discussion

sessions and workshops were held on specific topics (Controlled Rate Thermal Analysis, Glass Transitions, Standards and Calibrations, Calorimetry in Biological Systems, New Directions for Thermal Analysis Kinetics, Thermal analysis and environmental problems, Conservation of cultural heritage, The Venetian Lagoon: a case study).

Two Awards were given during ESTAC 6. The TMG Award established by the British Thermal Method Group (TMG) was given to Dr. Michael Elwell from Manchester and the A. Lucci Award established by the Associazione Italiana di Calorimetria e Analisi Termica (AICAT) was given ex-aequo to Dr. Silvia Porcedda from Cagliari and Dr. Aniello Costantini from Naples.

The ESTAC 6 venue was Grado, a little fishing and resort town on the NE coast of Italy, renowned for its warm hospitality and traditional cuisine, which was much appreciated by the participants. Space was left free in the programme to allow everyone to relax either on the beach or in the old medieval part of the town. The social events included a concert in the Basilica, an unexpected encore was provided by a typical Adriatic storm with its chorus of thunder and lightning.

Some invited papers on highlights of calorimetric and thermoanalytical research have been published in *Pure and Applied Chemistry* (November 1995 Issue), the official IUPAC journal, in accordance with usual practice after IUPAC-sponsored meetings.

The selection of papers published in this Special Issue of *Thermochimica Acta* are primarily grouped under the individual Conference themes. They provide an illustration of the multidisciplinary spectrum of activities undertaken by the participants in the thermal analysis and calorimetry fields. A nascent tradition was also followed by the inclusion of a session on the application of thermal methods to the conservation of works of art. Just two years ago, in fact, a full day workshop was held not far from Grado, in the beautiful Villa Manin, at the end of the National Conference on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis (*Thermochimica Acta*, Vol. 227). A set of papers of this subject can be found at the end of this issue.

The papers submitted for publication in *Thermochimica Acta* followed the regular refereeing procedure and the Editors are grateful to all the referees for their particular care and competence. Coordination of editorial work of specific sessions has been provided by: G. Barone (Naples), S. Delfino (Genova), G. Della Gatta (Turin), E. Franceschi (Genova), E. Pedemonte (Genova), G. Spinolo (Pavia). Without their help, this Issue could not have been prepared at all.

Ireneo Kikic  
Attilio Cesàro