Introduction

In 1992, the first Meeting of photochemists of the Mediterranean area was held in Acireale (Catania, Italy). After more than a decade, the 2nd Mediterranean Meeting on Photochemistry was held at Giardini Naxos (Messina, Italy) in 2003. It was promoted by the Italian Group of Photochemistry (GIF) with the support of other Photochemistry Groups of this area (Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Portugal, and Spain) and organized by the Universities of Catania and Messina. This 2nd Meeting was open to recent developments in all research topics of photochemistry and photophysics. It had the aim of promoting contacts between people of different countries, also giving rise to new scientific collaborations. The meeting was a very great success with over 130 participants who came from 16 Countries, not only from the Mediterranean Basin, but also from other sites in the world who have common cultural roots with Mediterranean people. The works presented spanned over all aspects of photochemistry and photophysics. This broad and heterogeneous participation demonstrates that interest in photochemical sciences is alive and well. The quality of the papers presented was outstanding and the discussion fruitful. We hope that this series of Mediterranean Meetings will run for many years to come.

Professor Sabry Abdel-Mottaleb, Editor of the International Journal of Photoenergy, has kindly offered to

devote this special issue of the Journal to the Proceedings of the 2nd Mediterranean Meeting on Photochemistry. Since the publication of the Proceedings was not planned in advance, nor announced during the Meeting, a limited number of participants had the possibility to contribute to this issue. However, the papers here published are representative of the number of countries participating in the Meeting (France, Turkey, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Greece, Russia, Portugal and Lithuania) and the variety of topics addressed during the Meeting: photochemistry in homogeneous and heterogeneous systems, nanosized systems, photoactive self-assembled systems, photochromism studied from both basic and applied points of view, fluorescent probes, photochemistry of xenobiotics, photochemistry of dyes used in arts.

I want to thank professor Sabry Abdel-Mottaleb for his generous and kind proposal to devote this issue to the 2nd Mediterranean Meeting on Photochemistry. I wish also to express sincere thanks to the authors and reviewers for their collaboration.

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(President of the Italian Group of Photochemistry)