even though many had expressed an extensive knowledge of molecular biological techniques. The extent of many studies into microflora included sampling cultivation, identification and assessment of the impact of microbiological activity on a substrate. Research interests often motivated investigations into microflora and results were therefore understandably viewed as part of an ongoing process of research.

When dealing with contaminated objects, health and safety issues were important for respondents who—although requesting further information on these issues—were undertaking appropriate measures to minimise exposure. Environmental control and biocides continue to be the preferred methods for dealing with biodeterioration, with the significance of investigations on the chosen method of control viewed as being dependent on findings.

International Congress on Molecular Biology and Cultural Heritage, 4-7 March 2003, Sevilla, Spain

The organisation of this congress represented the final activity of COALITION. This congress disseminated the data collected and reviewed by the concerted action partners. Also, it was enriched with the contributions of other biodeterioration projects funded by the European Commission and independent communications. A book, containing forty communications was edited and delivered among the congress’ participants. This book (287 pages) can be ordered at A.A. Balkema Publishers, P.O. Box 825, 2161 SZ Lisse, The Netherlands. Fax: +31 252 435447. E-mail: orders@swets.nl. Internet: www.balkema.nl

Farewell and Announcement

The concerted action COALITION will conclude by March 31, 2003. As coordinator I thank all of you for your interest and support during the last three years. However, this Newsletter will continue its publication, now under the sponsorship of the Spanish CSIC Network of Cultural Heritage.

COALITION will cover now all topics related with Cultural Heritage, not only biodeterioration. The periodicity will be annual (or semiannual, depending of the number of contributions received) and will include short communications, brief reports, thesis abstracts, announcements of meetings and congress, etc. Although it is expected that the different Spanish teams working on Cultural Heritage will largely contribute to COALITION Newsletter, thus offering an up-dated overview on the Spanish research on Cultural Heritage, we are also open to authors all over the world wishing to use these electronic pages for dissemination of their research, as a discussion forum, etc. I cordially invite you to contribute to COALITION Newsletter.