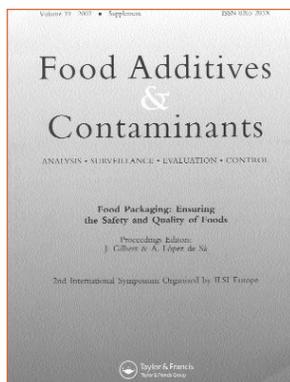


Food Packaging: Ensuring the Safety and Quality of Foods

John Gilbert and Angela López De Sá
(proceeding eds.)

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The papers presented in this Special Issue of *Food Additives and Contaminants* comprise the Proceedings of the Second ILSI Europe International Symposium on Food Packaging—Ensuring the Safety and Quality of Food, held in Vienna, Austria, from 8–10 November 2000. The First Symposium was held in 1996 in Budapest, Hungary (Published in *Food*

Additives and Contaminants 1997, **14**, 517–775).

The objectives of the second symposium were to advance the underlying science relating to the safety and quality of packaged foods, to disseminate results of ongoing research, and to stimulate debate on implications for the future. The symposium was organized in collaboration with IUPAC, the Vienna University of Technology, and the European Commission (EC). The EC has supported a number of research and technological development projects on food packaging,

migration, and development of analytical methods in the Fourth and Fifth Framework Programmes. A number of these projects, which were recently completed or are still underway, were included in the symposium, either as oral presentations or as posters. In view of the close linkage between the symposium and these EC funded projects in the Framework Programmes, the symposium was granted funding from DG Research as an Accompanying Measures Action.

More than 250 participants from Europe, North America, Asia, and Africa attended the three-day symposium. The multidisciplinary audience included food scientists, chemists, mathematicians, physicists, and microbiologists from industry, academia, and government. Twenty-two presentations were given, of which 20 are published in this proceedings. The presentations were divided into five sessions covering risk assessment of packaging materials; modeling; recycling and re-use of packaging; active, intelligent, and novel packaging; and new analytical approaches. In the proceedings, the papers are organized according to these sessions.

Following the success of the 1996 and 2000 symposia, the ILSI Europe Task Force on Packaging is currently planning a third symposium to be held in 2004 at a European venue.

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Concise International Chemical Assessment Document

A series of monographs by the International Programme on Chemical Safety
World Health Organization, Geneva (1998–2002)

reviewed by John H. Duffus

Before reviewing this series of publications, it is important to define what they are, what their purpose is, and to describe the procedure by which they are prepared. The procedure is particularly important because it is designed to ensure that the Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADs) are authoritative and trustworthy sources of the fundamental information required to carry out risk assessments. These assessments then lead to effective risk management of substances used worldwide, helping to ensure human safety and environmental protection.

The CICADs are short documents that provide summaries of the scientific information available on the potential effects of chemicals upon human health and/or the environment. These documents are based on selected national or regional evaluations or on existing International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) Environmental Health Criteria Documents (EHCs). Before acceptance for publication as CICADs by IPCS, the draft documents are subjected to extensive peer review by internationally selected experts to ensure their completeness, accuracy in how the original data are represented, and the

