

New contaminants, new risks: analysis and environmental implications

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With the growth and expansion of urban settings, linked to new agricultural practices and industrial development, there is a real need to protect the environment from bioactive contaminants. Although air pollutants and water quality have risen up the political agenda, many chemicals have not yet been considered nor identified as contaminants neither at regional nor global scale. Many “hidden” contaminants may pose a serious and undetermined long term risk to human health and wellbeing. The contaminants in question arise through modern lifestyles and production/use associated with large infrastructures and husbandry and can include technical formulations, additives, manufacturing by-products, polymeric materials, nanostructures, etc. The identification of new contaminants or their degradation products, their environmental monitoring, toxicity evaluation as well as the assessment of exposure and risk represent unique challenges from an analytical and environmental point of view. The aim of this Satellite Event is to present and discuss new data related to innovative analytical and toxicological techniques and methods for the identification and measuring of new contaminants, and to provide insight into their environmental occurrence, behaviour and impact. The session is wide ranging and hopes to attract active students, researchers and application specialists interested to explore beyond current knowledge and to move towards the need to protect the environment from chemical pollution.