

Preface

The conversion of energy generated in the Sun's interior creates its hot corona and a wealth of dynamical phenomena such as flares, mass ejections and transient non thermal populations of charged particles. These processes are of general interest in astrophysics. In the case of the Sun they can be probed by a unique combination of imaging, spectrographic and in situ measurements. Radio observations provide important diagnostics, and many instruments are operated by small research groups in Europe. The stimulation of joint investigations using radio diagnostics is a major role of CESRA, the *Community of European Solar Radio Astronomers*. This volume is based on the CESRA Workshop and Euro-conference *Energy Conversion and Particle Acceleration in the Solar Corona* held 2–6 July 2001, at Schloss Ringberg near Tegernsee (Germany). It aims to address a broader community of astrophysicists, including graduate students and researchers who want to gain an insight into this subject.

The workshop was organised by a scientific committee composed of C. Alisandrakis (Greece), F. Chiuderi-Drago and G. Einaudi (Italy), M. Karlický (Czech Republic), K.-L. Klein (France), J. Kuijpers (The Netherlands; president of the joint Solar Physics Section of the European Physical Society and the European Astronomical Society), and G. Mann and R. Treumann (Germany). The local organisers were R. Treumann and A. Czaykowska (Max Planck Institut für Extraterrestische Physik, Munich), assisted by the Copernicus Gesellschaft. The participants will remember the pleasant and stimulating atmosphere of Schloss Ringberg, operated by the Max Planck Gesellschaft, and the kind hospitality of Dr. A. Hoermann and his collaborators. Funding by the European Community was essential to enable the participation of young colleagues and keynote speakers. Important financial support by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* and the *Observatoire de Paris* is also gratefully acknowledged. The Editor is indebted to the referees of the contributions. Among them were T. Amari, M. Aschwanden, R. Canfield, D. Delcourt, P. Démoulin, G. Holman, H. Hudson, L. Kocharov, J. Kuijpers, A. Mangeney, S. Pohjolainen, L. Vlahos, and S. White. Last, but not least, he would like to thank Dr. C. Caron (Springer Verlag) for his continued encouragement and helpful advice.

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