Sometimes one has the feeling that software engineering is like building a sandcastle on the beach. Few rules exist, the components are small like sand grains, tools are minimal, made of cheap material and are often just the bare hands. Many self-declared “expert” junior and senior sandcastle engineers work at it without a plan or management. Only limited complexity can be achieved and the user needs quite a bit of imagination to see the full picture. If you do not perform continuous maintenance, everything will fall apart soon.

The smallest tremor in the environment endangers the whole building. At the same time we see new waves of methods, technology, and requirements coming rolling towards us, often destroying the castle!

So we better watch for new waves coming along – and as a watch tower for new waves in systems architecture EUROMICRO has kept its historical place since 1974. At the first conference in Nice we discussed microprogramming, microprocessors, advanced microsystem architectures, cross-compilation, and their synergy. EUROMICRO has kept it place until today with this year’s 29th conference. It has adjusted the changing waves and floods (!) of innovation. We do not serve a small circle of specialists, but a broad audience of general practitioners and academics. This year again we offer three strong tracks of high-technology subjects and the associated messages:

Component Based Software Development: Do not build but assemble! It promises a large step forward in productivity, quality and time-to-market.

Software Process and Product Improvement: Improve the software development process in order to produce higher quality systems! This helps to automate and improve other (business) processes down the line.

Multimedia and Telecommunication: Utilize the advances of technology to provide richer communication channels! We improve business and social contacts over larger distances.

Given these themes we had an excellent response to this year’s call for papers. We selected by peer review 54 papers by more than 125 authors from 18 countries offering you a broad spectrum of insights, ideas and real, successful projects.

In view of the beautiful beaches another novum was introduced. We extended the conference by one day and stopped earlier each afternoon – to give you a chance to have hands-on experience in sandcastle engineering and watch the waves of innovation roll towards the beach.

It is time thank all those who have contributed so intensely to the success of this conference:

First of all to Onur Demirors, Organising Chairman, for finding a beautiful and impressive conference site and managing the conference despite all the insecurity due to a nearby war. And thanks should go to the to the EUROMICRO office for all its support.

Furthermore we like extend our thanks to the Track-Chairpersons:

- Stefan Biffl
- Ivica Crnkovic
- Paul Grünbacher
- Andreas Mauthe
- Ralf Steinmetz

They really carry the burden of the scientific program. And we should not forget the authors of the papers and their colleagues and institutions. Last not least we should thank all the unknown tax payers in all our home countries because directly or indirectly it is them who pay most of the bill here.

We wish you therefore a good, interesting, thought-provoking conference and as they say in Turkey:

**Hosgeldiniz!**