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The Database and Expert Systems Applications (DEXA) conferences bring together researchers and practitioners from all over the world to exchange ideas, experiences and opinions in a friendly and stimulating environment. The papers are at once a record of what has been achieved and the first steps towards shaping the future of information systems. DEXA covers a broad field, and all aspects of database, knowledge base and related technologies and their applications are represented. Once again there were a good number of submissions: 241 papers were submitted and of these the programme committee selected 103 to be presented. DEXA'99 took place in Florence and was the tenth conference in the series, following events in Vienna, Berlin, Valencia, Prague, Athens, London, Zurich, Toulouse and Vienna. The decade has seen many developments in the areas covered by DEXA, developments in which DEXA has played its part. I would like to express thanks to all the institutions which have actively supported and made possible this conference, namely: • University of Florence, Italy • IDG CNR, Italy • FAW – University of Linz, Austria • Austrian Computer Society • DEXA Association In addition, we must thank all the people who have contributed their time and effort to make the conference possible. Special thanks go to Maria Schweikert (Technical University of Vienna), M. Neubauer and G. Wagner (FAW, University of Linz). We must also thank all the members of the programme committee, whose careful reviews are important to the quality of the conference.
