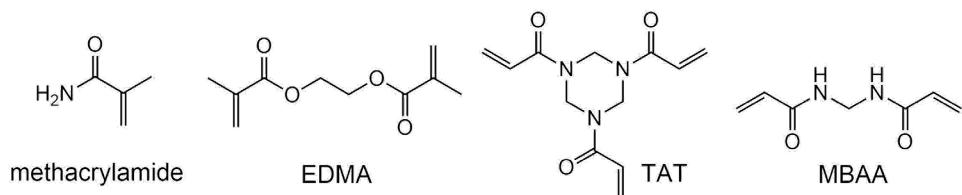


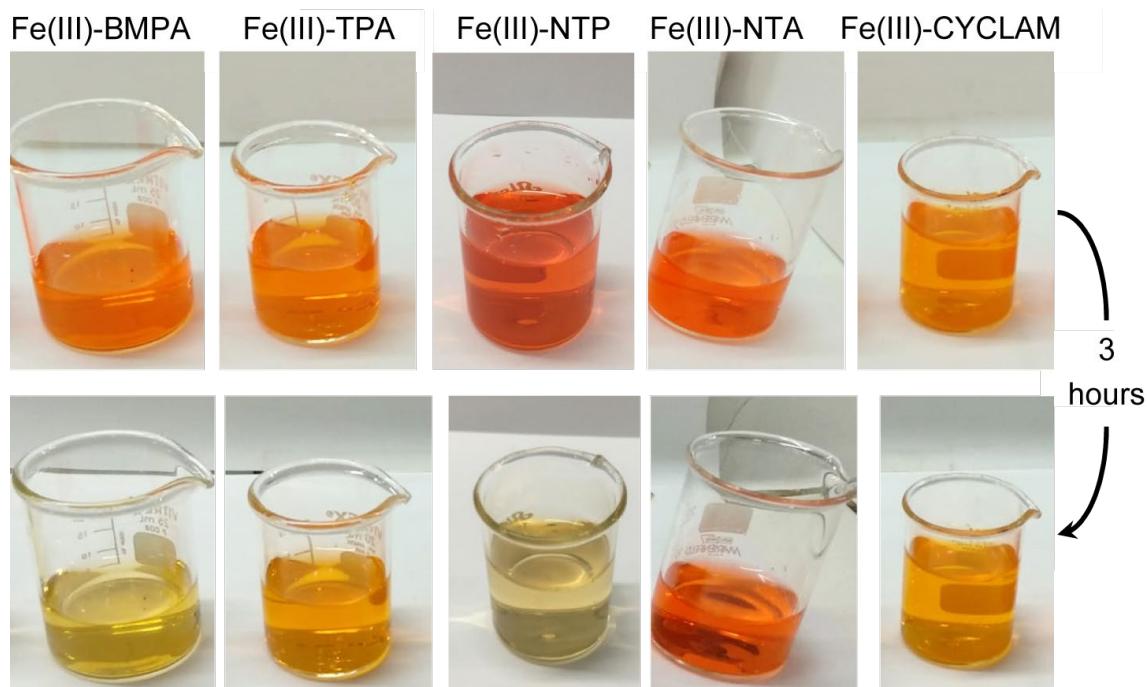
# Fe(III) complex imprinted polymers for the green oxidative degradation of the methyl orange dye pollutant

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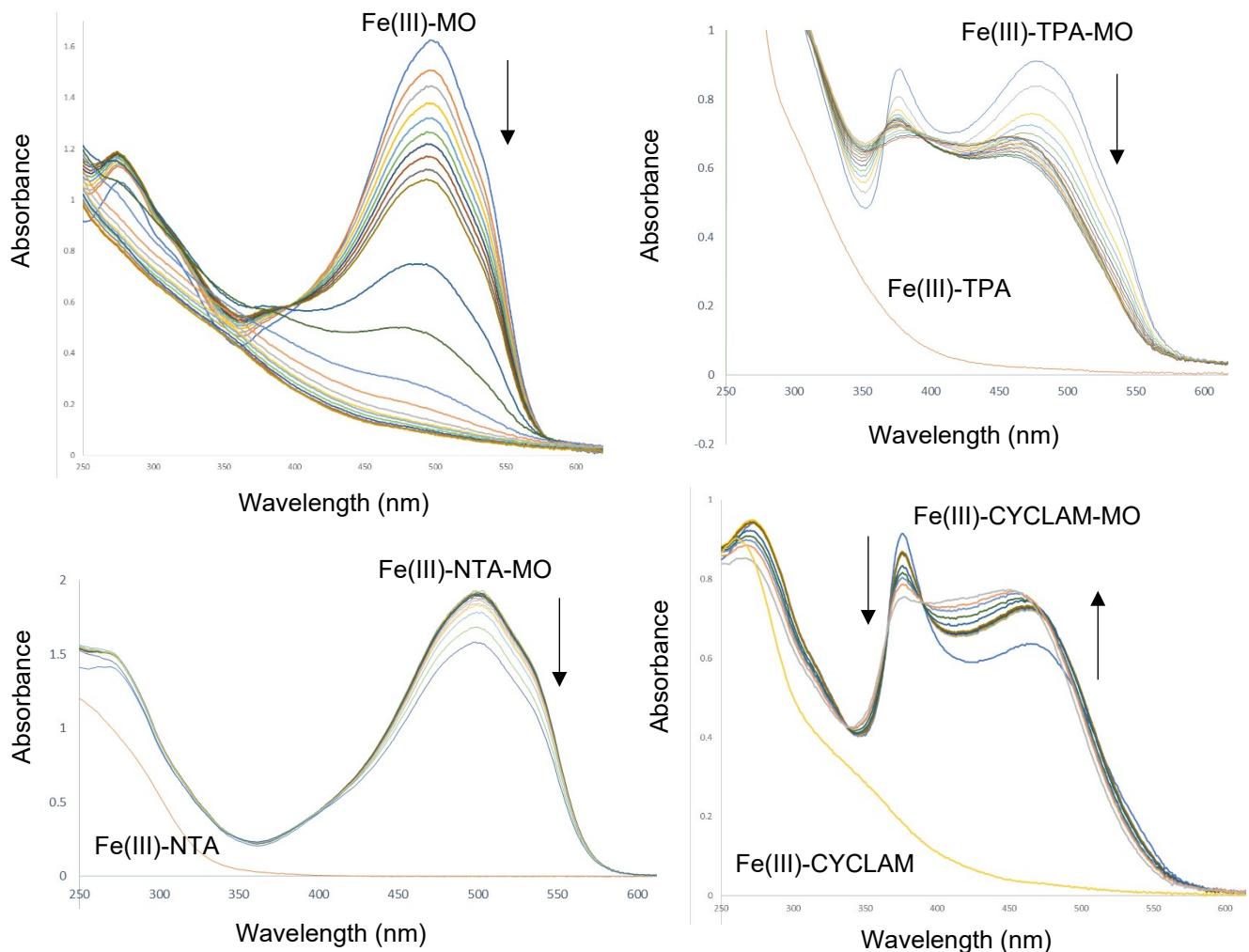
## Supplementary information



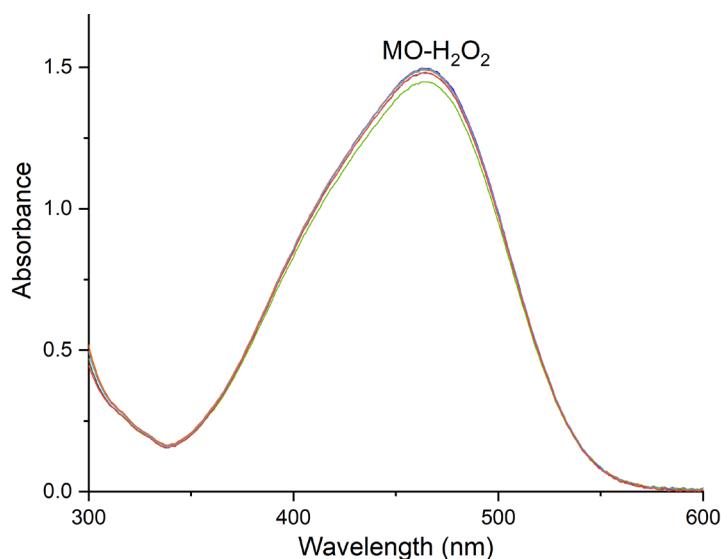
**Figure S1.** Crosslinking agents used in this work.



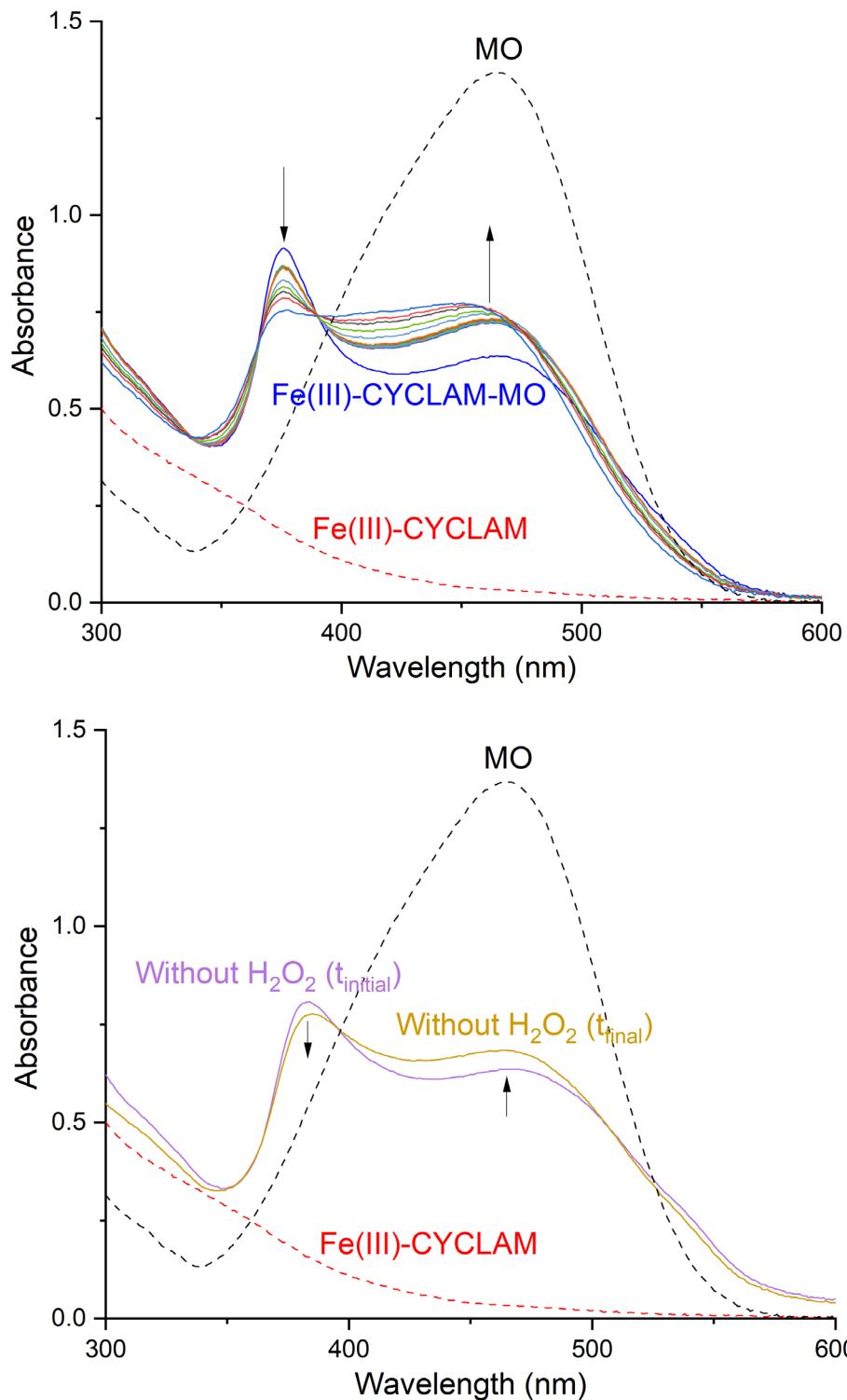
**Figure S2.** Change in the colour of the solutions during the catalytic experiments with the Fe(III) complexes. Conditions:  $T = 20.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; 3 hours;  $[\text{MO}] = 6 \times 10^{-5}\text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $[\text{Fe}] = [\text{ligand}] = 1.9 \times 10^{-4}\text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}_2] = 2.93 \times 10^{-3}\text{ mol L}^{-1}$ .



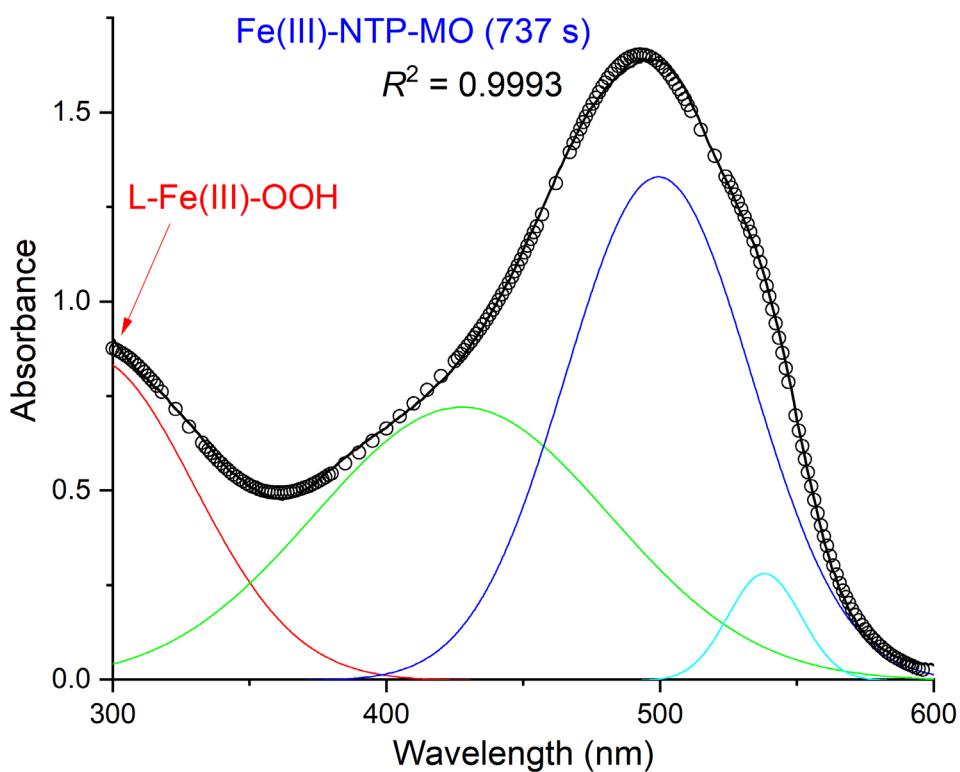
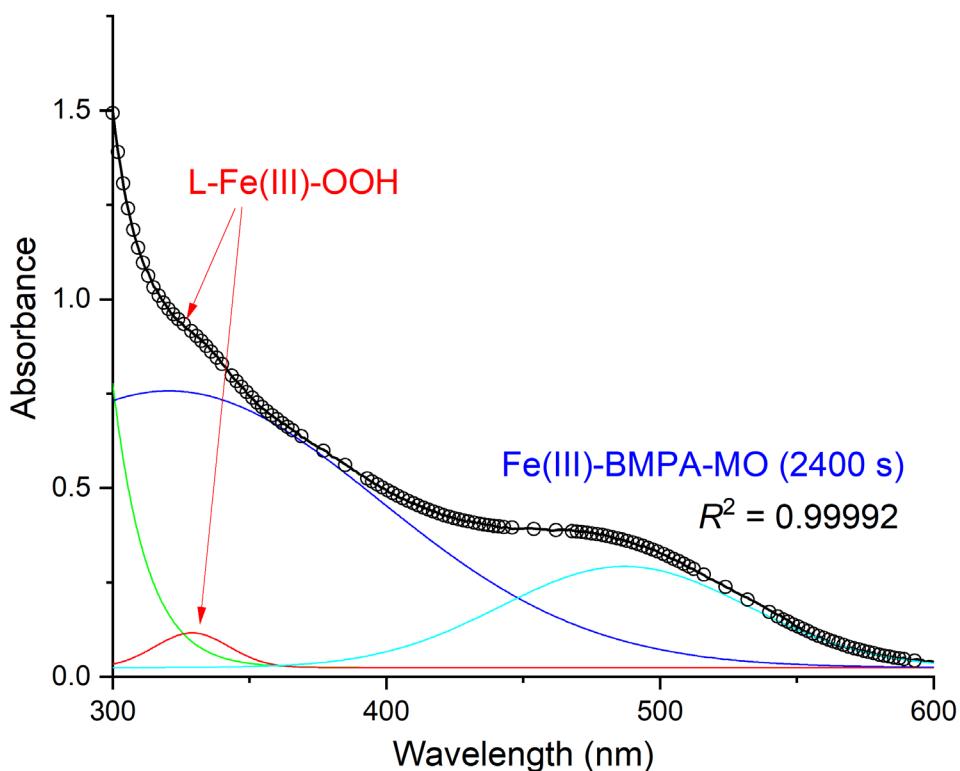
**Figure S3.** Time evolution of the UV-vis spectral profile during the catalytic experiments for the systems containing  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ , Fe(III)-TPA, Fe(III)-NTA or Fe(III)-CYCLAM. Conditions:  $T = 20,0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; 3 hours;  $[\text{MO}] = 6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $[\text{Fe}] = [\text{ligand}] = 1.9 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}_2] = 2.93 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ .



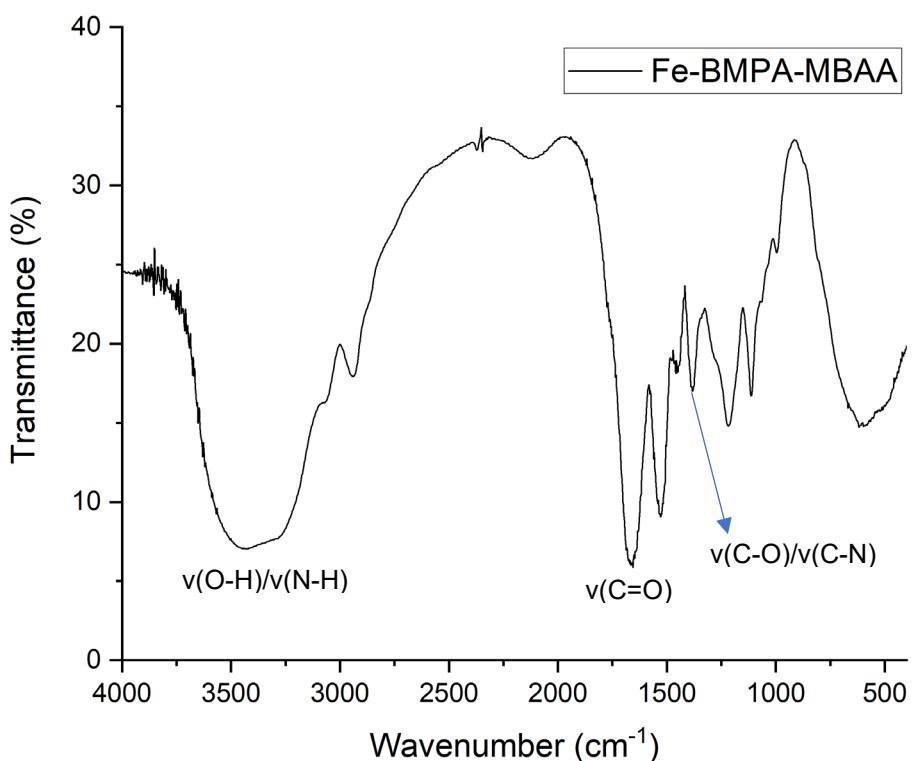
**Figure S4.** Time evolution of the UV-vis spectral profile during the catalytic experiments in the absence of iron and ligands. Conditions:  $T = 20,0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; 3 hours;  $[\text{MO}] = 6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}_2] = 2.93 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ .



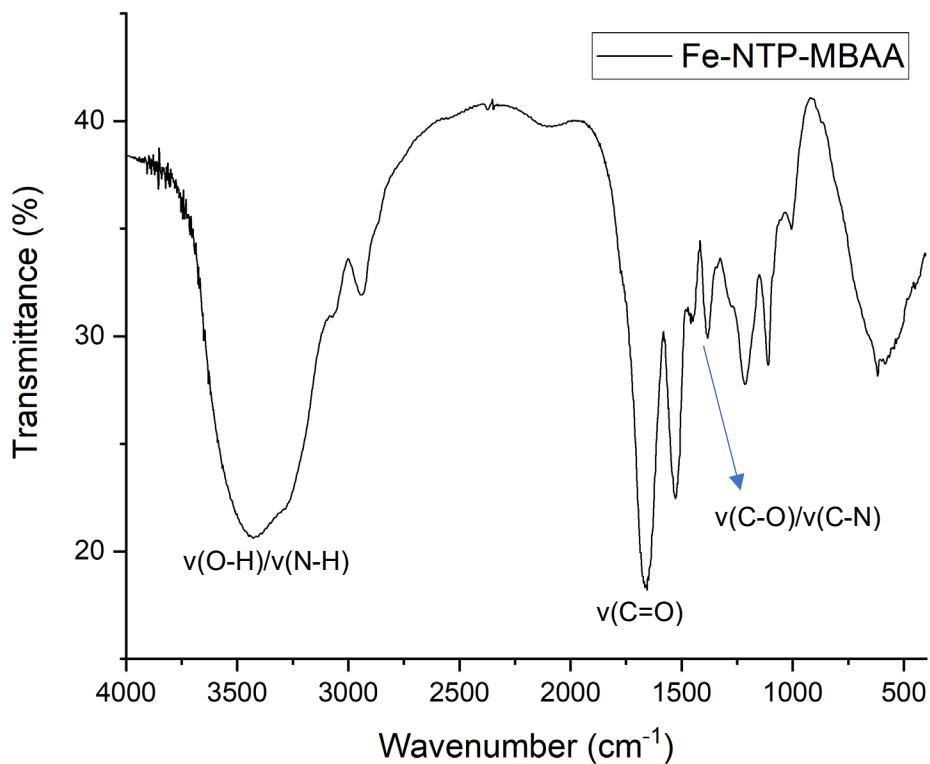
**Figure S5.** Up: Time evolution of the UV-vis spectral profile during the catalytic experiments for the systems containing Fe(III)-CYCLAM. Conditions:  $T = 20,0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$ ; 3 hours;  $[\text{MO}] = 6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $[\text{Fe}] = [\text{CYCLAM}] = 1.9 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $[\text{H}_2\text{O}_2] = 2.93 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ . Down: Initial and final spectra under the same conditions but in the absence of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .



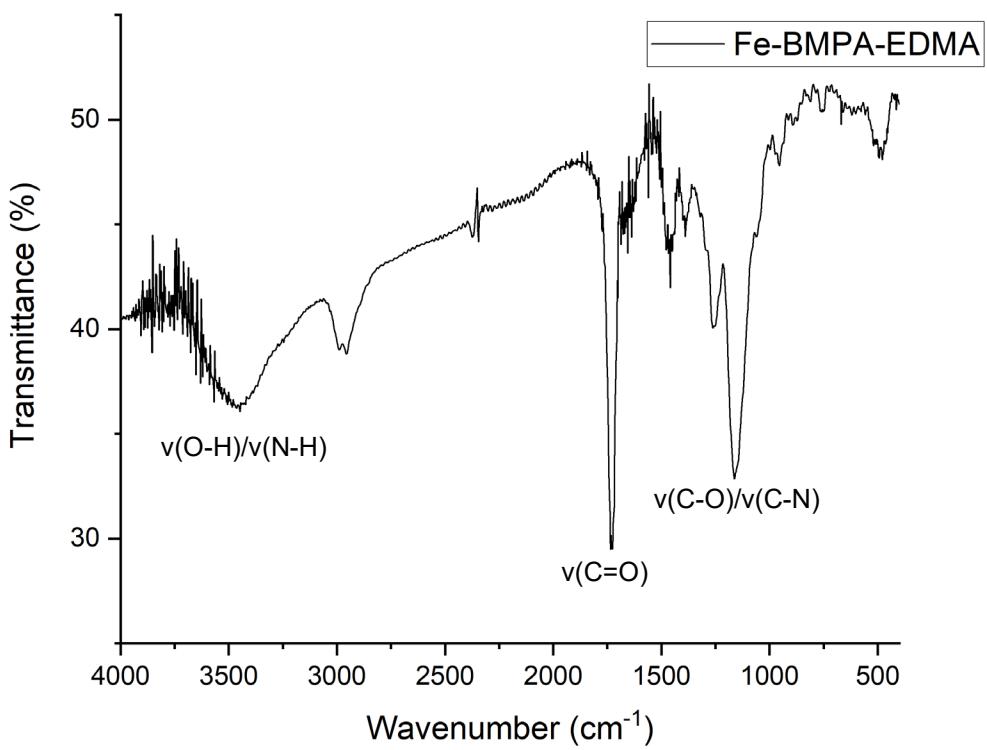
**Figure S6.** Spectra deconvolution for Fe(III)-BMPA-MO (up; 2400 seconds) and Fe(III)-NTP-MO (down; 737 seconds) systems. The shoulder around 320 nm, associated with the species L-Fe-OOH, is indicated with arrows. The spectra were selected choosing the time at which the absorbance of the shoulder was maximum.



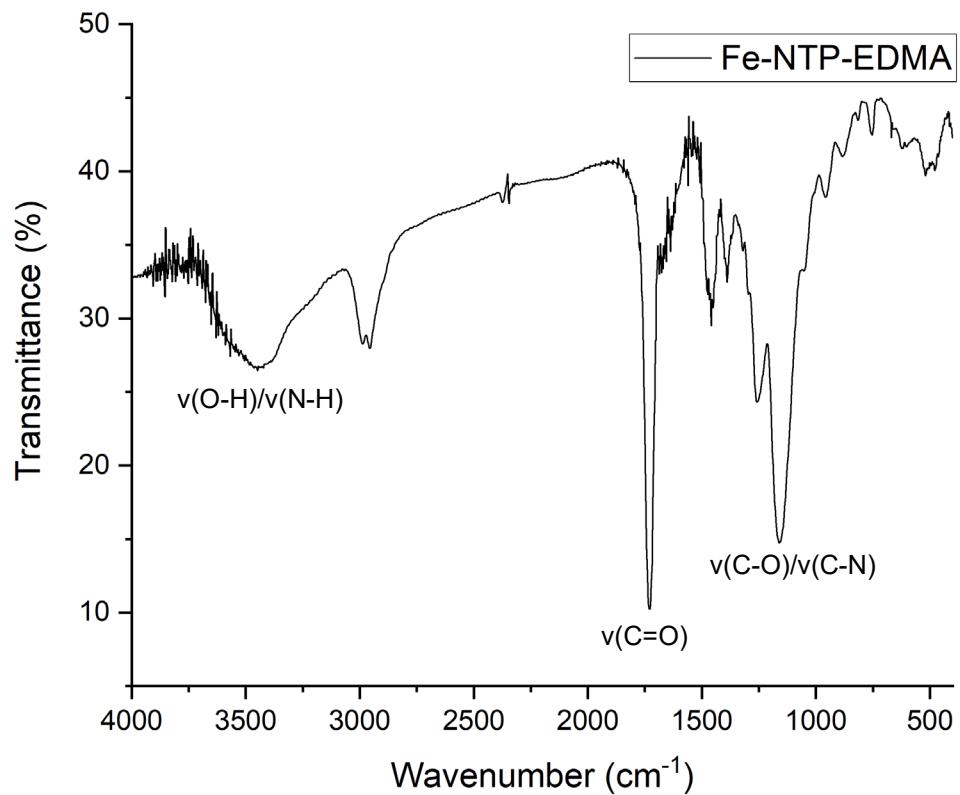
**Figure S7.** Infrared spectrum of Fe-BMPA-MBAA MIP.



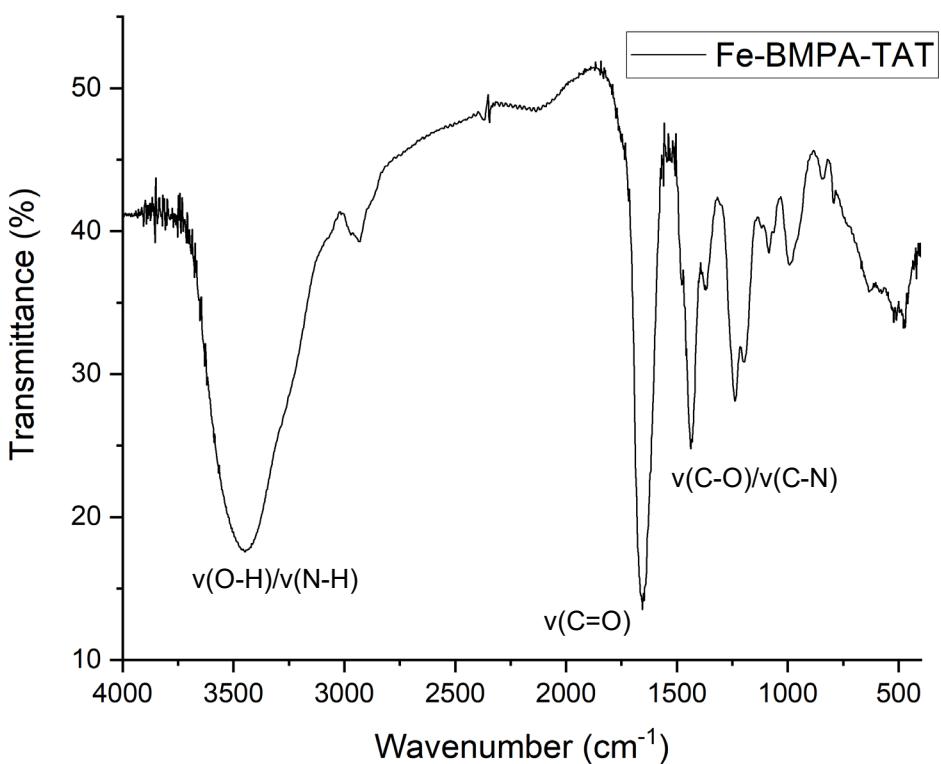
**Figure S8.** Infrared spectrum of Fe-NTP-MBAA MIP.



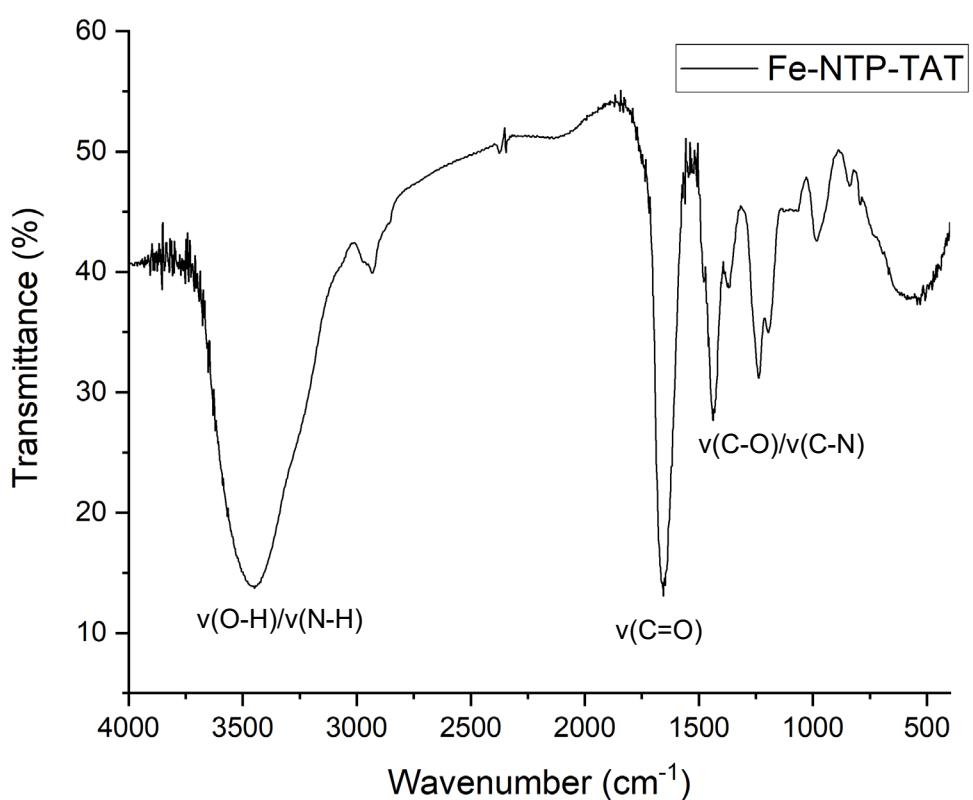
**Figure S9.** Infrared spectrum of Fe-BMPA-EDMA MIP.



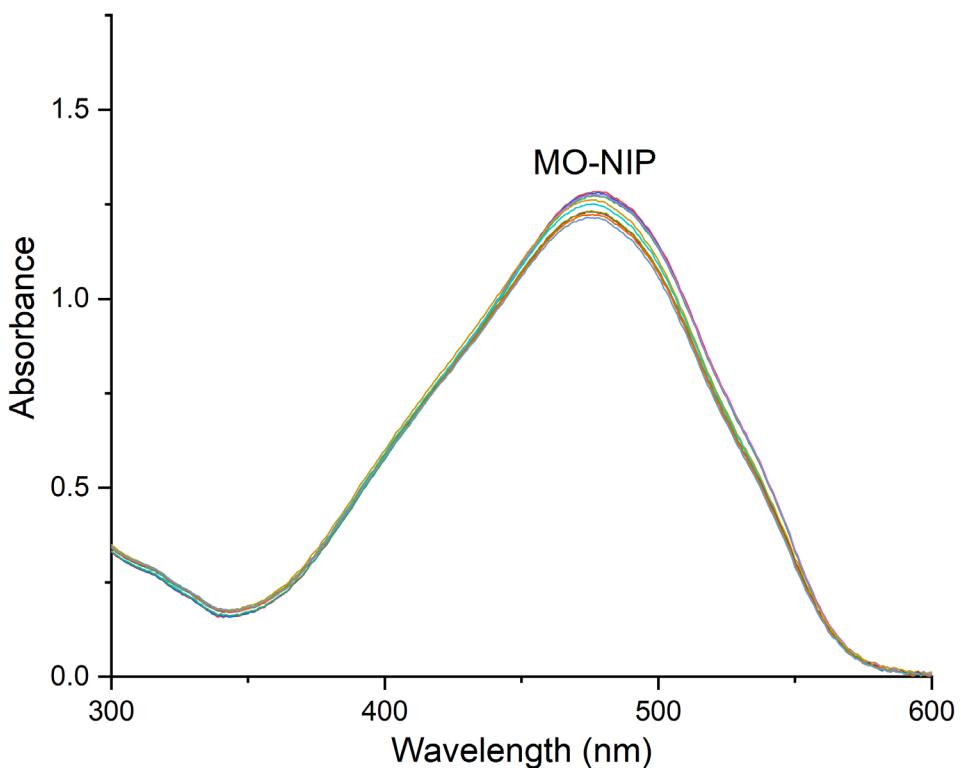
**Figure S10.** Infrared spectrum of Fe-NTP-EDMA MIP.



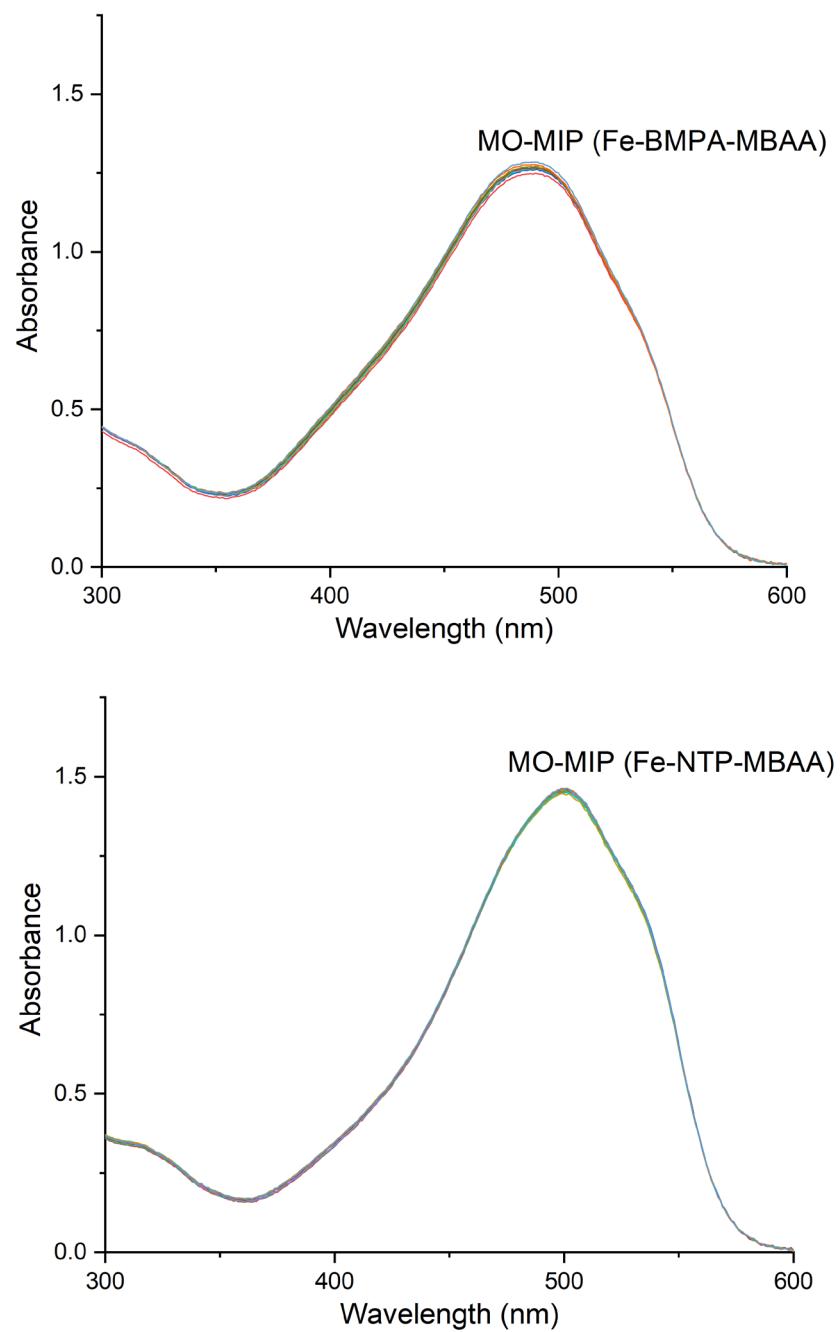
**Figure S11.** Infrared spectrum of Fe-BMPA-TAT MIP.



**Figure S12.** Infrared spectrum of Fe-NTP-TAT MIP.



**Figure S13.** Catalytic performance of the MBAA NIP towards the oxidative degradation of MO in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Conditions: T = 20.0 °C; 3 hours; [MO] = 6 × 10<sup>-5</sup> mol L<sup>-1</sup>, NIP mass = 40 mg, [H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>] = 2.9 × 10<sup>-3</sup> mol L<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S14.** Catalytic performance of the Fe(III) complex imprinted polymers towards the oxidative degradation of MO **in the absence** of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Up: Fe(III)-BMPA-MBAA. Down: Fe(III)-NTP-MBAA. Conditions: T = 20.0 °C; 3 hours; [MO] = 6 × 10<sup>-5</sup> mol L<sup>-1</sup>, MIP mass = 40 mg.

**Table S1.** Fitting of the kinetic models.<sup>a</sup>

Catalyst	Goodness of fit ( $R^2$ )			
	MO degradation			Intermediate L-Fe(III)-OOH
	First-order	Second-order	Carvalho <i>et al.</i> <sup>1</sup>	Carvalho <i>et al.</i> <sup>1</sup>
	$A = A_0 e^{-kt}$	$\frac{1}{[MO]} = \frac{1}{[MO]_0} + kt$	$A = ae^{-k_1 t} + be^{-k_2 t}$	$A = a(1 - e^{-k_3 t}) + be^{-k_4 t}$
Fe(III)	0,99	0,97	0,99	0,99
Fe-BMPA	0,69	0,91	0,99	0,98
Fe-TPA	0,09	0,07	0,96	0,99
Fe-NTP	0,98	0,89	0,98	0,98
Fe-NTA	0,99	0,98	0,99	--- <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> A = MO maximum absorbance. <sup>b</sup> The absorbance variation at 320 nm is negligible.

**Table S2.** Most important infrared bands of the Fe(III) complex imprinted polymers. The assignment of the IR bands was based on previous reports.<sup>2-6</sup>

Polymeric matrix	Template	Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )			
		v(O-H)/v(N-H)	v(C=O)	v(C=C)	v(C-O)/v(C-N)
MIP-MBAA	Fe-BMPA	3100-3665	1668	-	1293/1385
	Fe-NTP	3100-3660	1662	-	1301/1385
MIP-EDMA	Fe-BMPA	3300-3650	1732	-	1157/1257/1297/1393
	Fe-NTP	3300-3650	1732	-	1157/1253/1297/1393
MIP-TAT	Fe-BMPA	3130-3700	1662	-	1301/1401-1470
	Fe-NTP	3150-3700	1666	-	1401-1477/1566
Polymerization reagents					
Methacrylamide		3386/3194	1667	1608	1408
MBAA		3305	1650	1620	1301
EDMA		-	1723	1639	1154/1247
TAT		-	1650	1636	1417/1449/1563

**Table S3.** MO degradation for the MIPs and NIPs tested.

Crosslinking agent	MIPs		NIP
	Fe-BMPA	Fe-NTP	
MBAA	95.7%	98.7%	5.3%
EDMA	28.4%	41.8%	2.6%
TAT	23.5%	7.6%	2.3%

## References

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6. Reimschuessel, H. K.; McDevitt, N. T., Infrared Spectra of Some 1,3,5-Triazine Derivatives. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1960**, *82* (14), 3756-3762.