8. A method of adjusting the operating conditions of a petroliferous thermal or catalytic conversion plant, comprising the following steps:

determining the concentration of particles of carbon or of dehydrogenated asphaltenes present in the bottom residue of the plant by subjecting a sample of the residue to infrared (IR) light irradiation, wherein the sample is placed on a support transparent to IR radiation, in the form of layer of a thickness of 0.05 to 3 mm;

converting the radiation exiting the irradiated sample into a signal (CV/IR parameter) correlated to the concentration of said particles,

characterized in that the operating conditions of the plant are corrected in accordance with the CV/IR value determined.

9. The method according to claim 8, characterized in that when the CV/IR parameter detects a carbonaceous charge higher than a preset limit threshold, either a decrease of the furnace temperature or an increase of the amount of stabilizing additives in the plant charge will be operated, in order to obtain a decrease of the fouling potential of the plant.

10. The method according to claim 9, characterized in that when the CV/IR parameter detects a carbonaceous charge lower than a maximum acceptable threshold, an increase of the furnace temperature will be operated, with the entailed increase of light distilled fractions.

11. The method according to any one of the claims 8 to 10, wherein the signal correlated to the concentration of the particles of carbon or of dehydrogenated asphaltenes in the sample automatically triggers a series of operations correcting the operating conditions of the plant.

12. The method according to any one of the claims 8 to 11, wherein the sample of residue analyzed is in non-diluted form.

13. The method according to any one of the claims 8 to 12, wherein the determining of the concentration of particles of carbon or of dehydrogenated asphaltenes in

the sample of residue and the correcting of the conditions are carried out with the plant during operation and in real time.