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New Insights on the Black Sea Basin Tectonic Evolution Contribute to the Exploration Strategy

Comparative tectonic evolution of two remote regions of the Alpine belt - Black Sea and Western Mediterranean regions - reveal profound analogies. Despite of a number of essential differences (certain time shift of the events in particular) both regions have many analogies in their geological structure so the found similarities help to elaborate new prospecting trends for oil and gas exploration in the circum-Black Sea basin using geological knowledge on the Western-Central Mediterranean region and vice versa (Kitchka, 1998).

Such numerous tectonic analogues and homologues make pairs of the basic structural constituents like

· Liguro-Provencal-Tyrrhenian Basins - West Black Sea · Pyrenees, core zone - Dobrogea Orogen · Iberian Plate - Moesian Plate · Kabylie Massifs - Istanbul Zone · Maghrebides - Western Pontides · Crimean Mts. - Southern Alps · Western Alps paleo-basin - Karkinit Trough · Po Basin - Sorokin Trough · Apennines, initial cordillera - Andrussov Ridge · Apulian Plate - Dzirulia/Shatsky Ridge · Dinarides - Greater Caucasus, etc.

are genetically rooted in common kinematical style reproducing the pretty much same ensemble of tectonic terrains and fault patterns of different scale in these remote segments of the Western Neo-Tethys and Ponto-Caspian.

The main promising prospects in the basin are Malossa-like Mesozoic carbonate reservoirs of the Andrussov and Shatshky Ridges and Mio-Pliocene prograded delta fans and turbidites of continental slope and toe. Water depths in Black Sea (max 2200 m) are no longer a technical problem (but still economical one) in view of encouraging achievements gained by the upstream industry in Campos basin, West Africa offshore and the Gulf.