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## HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION IN THE WESTERN BLACK SEA

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Hydrocarbon exploration has been an ongoing process throughout the Black Sea region in an effort to develop, produce and market the potential resources of the area in the beginning of the twenty first Centuries. Such a process has many aspects that need to be attacked scientifically and managed appropriately. These aspects are largely involved with sequence stratigraphy as a function of depositional environment, reservoir characterisation related to rock physics properties, structural settings produced by tectonic activities in the region and environmental issues headed by diverging driving forces.

In an effort to challenge these issues mentioned above and find out the hydrocarbon potential of the Western Black Sea area, TPAO-ARCO joint activities have been going on since 1995. These joint operations essentially include 2D and 3D seismic data acquisition, processing and interpretation respectively. Seismic data processing and interpretation have been basically based on conventional horizon mapping and AVO approaches. Having worked on data separately and combining the results, both parties have agreed on drilling two exploration wells having water depths of 695 and 851 meters respectively. The actual drilling operations will commence in the summer of 1999, approximately the same date this Convention will be taking place.

In the course of this presentation, I will present the critical and concrete aspects of the findings in terms of seismic, gravity, magnetic and as well as log data. The beauty of this study is that technical findings will be correlated and checked very soon so that we will be able to understand some unclear aspects of our interpretation with the help of well data.