

PREFACE

Geology of the Circum-Black Sea Region – Part B Balkans and the East European Platform

This special issue comprises selected presentations from the 2nd International Symposium on the Geology of the Black Sea Region, which was held in Ankara on 5-9th October 2009, organized jointly by the General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration (MTA) and Chamber of Geological Engineers (JMO). The symposium was followed by a field trip to the Eastern Pontides and a guidebook of the field trip was published. The first special issue of the Turkish Journal of Earth Sciences based on the Symposium and devoted to the geology of the Caucasus came out in 2011. The third special issue will be devoted to the geology of the Pontides and will published later in 2012.

This second special issue on the geology of the Circum-Black Sea region includes six papers, which mostly concentrate on the geology of the Balkan peninsula and the northern margin of the Black Sea. The first paper, by Nikishin et al., gives a broad overview of the geological evolution of the area from the Late Palaeozoic to the Tertiary. The second paper, by Zakariadze et al., is devoted to the little known pre-Mesozoic ophiolites of the Balkans. New isotopic dating has shown that these ophiolites, long regarded as of Precambrian age, are in fact Devonian. In the third paper Seghedi provides a review of the Palaeozoic formations in Dobrugea and Moesia, which largely involved interaction between Baltica and Gondwana-derived fragments. The geology of the Strandja Massif, which constitutes the eastern termination of the large metamorphic area in the Balkans, including the Serbo-Macedonian and Rhodope massifs, is outlined by Natalin et al. The petroleum potential of the western Black Sea is discussed in a paper by Georgiev. The special issue

concludes with a paper on the Cenozoic volcanism in Georgia.

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