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## **The Cavern Field No. II in Ocnele Mari - History, Present and Future**

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### **Preliminary remarks**

SOCON is an internationally active service company for cavern surveying and carried out cavern surveys in the fields of Ocnele Mari in 1993 and in 1995 as well as in 1997 in connection with the PHARE project "Study into economic viability and ecological reconstruction of the salt mining area of Ocnele Mari (Valcea District)".

It is a basic rule that SOCON will never make accessible any data or information from its field of activity to third parties. An exception is given only if together with the client or on his order scientific lectures or publications are created and executed or the customer expressly orders a publication among the experts. The latter is the case regarding the situation of Ocnele Mari.

In the follow-up to the PHARE study which was initiated by SALROM itself and financed by the European Union I was asked by Mr. P. Reisz, General Manager SALROM, Mr. C. Stoicescu, Technical Director SALROM, and Mr. V. Croitoru, Commercial Director SALROM, to make well-known the problems in Ocnele Mari to the international professional world and here particularly to SMRI, and that in the hope, to achieve thereby the chance of a technical and financial support.

I followed this wish and together with Prof. H. Haddenhorst, at that time European co-ordinator of the SMRI, I submitted the problems to the international expert circles and since that time I have done my best to look for solutions and to help. Prof. Haddenhorst took up discussions with the German lobby, which according to my information led to the result that the German Federal Government supplied a considerable amount to the Romanian state for environmental problems. But for political reasons a direct linkage with the problems of Ocnele Mari was avoided unfortunately. Since that time I as well as the SMRI have made every effort to help in the context with the respective organizational possibilities.