
**Opening speech - Prof. Dr. Ovidiu Dragastan,
Symposium organiser**

17-18 October 1997.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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Esteemed professors,
Honourable audience,
It is a great
Symposium on Palaeontology,
the celebration of
of exception in the
I recognise
importance for the substantiation of the origin of life on Earth and of its evolution,
but also a discipline which
activities and which
hydrocarbon fields
Its methods
for geologists and
aura of passion,
chosen profession
I cannot overlook
who were your pre
of Bucharest, Prof.
Miltiade Filipescu
developed genera
Grigore Cobălcescu
A very pleasant and honouring mission is incumbent on me, that of heading today - on behalf of the Organising Committee of the First National Symposium on Palaeontology - the opening ceremony of the proceedings of this scientific reunion, which receives as honorary guest Prof. Emil Constantinescu, Ph.D., President of Romania.

We consider this moment to represent a peak in the growth of the potential of geosciences, in other words of the Romanian school of geology, in universities, the Romanian Academy, research institutes and museums. Today we have the privilege of receiving the message of the President of Romania, Professor Emil Constantinescu who by his lifelong experience of accomplished teacher identifies himself with the great political and scientific turmoils which preface the beginning of a new century.

I know that their work represented a basis for the modern courses which our students in geology
Cluj, last. I also know
over and continued
The organisation of a scientific event in such a domain and with such an attendance (your programme impressed me) is capable of revitalising not only Palaeontology as a science, but also the domain of Geology as whole. This has a w
In this festive environment, let me give the floor to Professor Dr. Emil Constantinescu who will open the proceedings of the symposium.