## S12 The Upper Miocene Paratethyan regime in the Aegean region: causes, timing and implications

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This session accepts abstracts only

The Aegean region appears to be a key-area for the understanding of the Mediterranean-Paratethys connectivity events during Late Miocene. Brakish-water mollusc faunas of Paratethyan affinities, already well know from numerous Miocene spots along North Aegean-Thrace region, have long ago triggered the discussion of a late Miocene Paratethyan invasion in the Southern Balkans. The geographic extend of this event and the pathways it followed are, however, open to discussion as old and new data from the broader area allow alternative scenarios. The role of major regional tectonic events related to the prolongation of the North Anatolian Fault System, as well as of global events related to the Messinian Salinity Crisis appear to be crucial in the determination and timing of the North Aegean Paratethyan regime. The palaeogeographic and environmental impacts of this episode to the continental territory (fauna and flora) are still little known and need further investigation. The present session wishes to bring together different aspects of the topic focusing on its causes, timing and palaeogeographic-palaeoecological impacts and allowing a multidisciplinary approach.