MASSIMILIANO CRICCO, L’ENI in Libia: dal trattato italo-libico del 1956 ai negoziati degli anni Settanta

The relations between ENI and Libya started during Mattei’s presidency, with the first application for concessions submitted on May 5th, 1957 by AGIP Mineraria, but it was only on November 19th 1959 that an Italian joint venture named CORI (Compagnia Ricerca Idrocarburi), owned by AGIP (90%) and SNAM Progetti (10%) obtained the Concession n. 82, in the Cyrenaican Desert, for an area of about 30,000 square kilometers in a single block.

Since then, therefore, a successful series of drilling allowed the Italian Oil Company to discover important oil fields in Libya, and the application of the “Mattei Formula”, representing an advantage for the producing countries, convinced Libyan Government to give directly to AGIP several new concessions.

In May 1969, thanks to results obtained, a new treaty was signed in Tripoli between AGIP and Libyan government granting the Italian Company three new permits and a participation agreement between the Libyan State owned Company and the AGIP, sharing profits in a joint venture. The “Mattei formula” and the principle of participation, that inspired the agreement of 1969, allowed ENI to keep the 50% of its assets also under the Gaddafi Regime.

The ENI-Libya collaboration granted the Italian National Oil Company and its Consociates new important results also during the Seventies, in the framework of the two main agreements between Libyan and Italian Governments, signed respectively in 1974 and 1975, and thanks to the new concession obtained by the AGIP in the Libyan offshore area north of Tripoli in 1978.

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