

## **The HADRIAN AWARD WAS GRANTED TO THE KOÇ FAMILY**

*This year, the Koç Family received the Hadrian Award granted by the World Monuments Fund to persons or institutions that contribute to the cultural legacy of the world every year.*

The award ceremony, that was organized in New York on Friday October 19, 2007, hosted many American opinion leaders along with the Koç Family. The Hadrian Award is granted every year to persons and people, who contribute to the protection of the world art and cultural legacy. The names nominated for the award are selected from amongst the people who perform works or contribute to projects in such fields as architecture, urban planning, and protection of cultural assets. The award is dedicated to the Roman Emperor Hadrian, who lived between the years 76-138 BC and achieved significant works in the name of urbanization.



The Koç Family was deemed worthy of this award due to the support they provided to Culture and Arts in every field and having established important centers that provide assistance in the protection of cultural legacy through the Vehbi Koç Foundation. The Koç Family, who contributed to many excavations and cultural projects along with the Rahmi Koç Museum, which is the first museum of industry in Turkey, the Sadberk Hanım Museum, which is the first private museum and a pioneer in this field, the Suna-Inan Kiraç Mediterranean Civilizations Institute, and the Anatolian Civilizations Research Center, have institutionalized the support they provide for culture and arts under the roof of the Vehbi Koç Foundation.

Rahmi Koç, The Honorary President of Koç Holding, also gave a speech during the award ceremony. While emphasizing the meaning of this award they were granted for

the family, Rahmi Koç also pointed out to the importance of protecting all cultural values of Anatolian lands where Eastern and Western cultures are nested within and complement each other in the best manner. He underlined the fact that their interest in especially the cultural legacy as the Koç Family was shaped with the influence of the late Sadberk Koç and continued with an increasing consciousness from generation to generation. Rahmi Koç also added that they supported the excavation of many antique cities such as Sagalassos, Çatalhöyük and Afrodissias besides their contributions to various museums and projects.

The Koç Group, which was born 81 years ago with the Republic of Turkey and which has grown as the Turkish Republic developed and which has worked for its country and people since its establishment, continues its works through the Vehbi Koç Foundation, the Rahmi Koç Museum Foundation, the Suna-Inan Kiraç Foundation and the projects it supports externally with the belief that social development is also directly connected with the development of the socio-cultural structure. The Koç Family and the Vehbi Koç Foundation continues to support the projects that would contribute to cultural legacy in this respect and promote its transfer from generation to generation with a nationality consciousness and faith.

With its commercial successes internationally recognized through such respectable ratings as Fortune Global 500 and Euromoney and while rapidly moving towards becoming a global company, the works of Koç Holding in the field of Culture and Art sustained with its basic principles of doing business, such as institutionalization, leadership, and “I exist if my country exists” and the difference it creates have been crowned with this meaningful international award.

Güzelvurt and Göreme from Cappadocia, the historical walls in Istanbul, which remained from the 5th – 15th centuries, Çukur Han in Ankara, and Hasankeyf in Turkey are among the 100 regions that are listed to be in danger in the world by the World Monuments Fund in 2008. The World Monuments Fund undertakes a significant role in the protection of the cultural legacy of the world and its transfer to future generations by providing significant financial resources and information.

Çukur Han, which is included within the scope of the Cultural Legacy of the World, is currently being restored by Rahmi M. Koç Museum and Culture Foundation.

Among the people who were previously granted with the Hadrian Award are Prince Charles of the United Kingdom, Ağa Han, the Chairman of Fiat’s Board of Directors, Giovanni Agnelli, Lord Rothschild, the businessman David Rockefeller, and the President of the World Bank, James Wolfenson.