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KOÇ HOLDING ENDS FIRST HALF OF 2009 WITH A PROFIT OF 667 MILLION TL AND A TURNOVER OF 20 BILLION TL

Koç Holding gained 20 billion TL in consolidated sales and 1.8 billion TL in operating profit the first half of 2009. Hence, Koç Holding's net profit has reached 667 million TL as of 30 June 2009.

CRISIS AFFECTED US

Dr. Bülent Bulgurlu, CEO of Koç Holding, stated that the global economic crisis had adversely affected their financial results as it had for other companies since 2008. Dr. Bulgurlu added that they hoped for a positive outlook in the third quarter, resulting from the great efforts and measures taken by the government, the Central Bank of Turkey, employees and employers.

FOCUS ON ECONOMY MUST CONTINUE

Bulgurlu emphasized the importance of the government's ongoing efforts and those of all stakeholders to focus on the economy and dynamise the consumer demand, as in the first half of the year, and added that they expected new measures to maintain slightly increasing consumer demand with tax reductions ended in September.

IMF SUPPORT TO MEDIUM-TERM ECONOMIC PROGRAM WOULD BE BENEFICIAL

He asserted that completing the medium-term economic program, still being prepared by the government, and obtaining more support from the IMF would be beneficial to help stabilize public financing and accelerate economic recovery as confidence rises.

INTEREST RATE CUT BY THE CENTRAL BANK OF TURKEY WOULD BE A POSITIVE IMPROVEMENT UNTIL RECOVERY IS COMPLETE

Bulgurlu said that the announcement of the medium-term economic program would have a positive effect on consumer demand and would help improving the second half results of businesses. He also added that the interest rate cuts by the Central Bank of Turkey should, in fact, continue until complete economic recovery, stressing its importance on the year's second half results.

ALL OPPORTUNITIES MUST BE EXPLOITED FOR DYNAMISM IN CONSUMER DEMAND

Bulgurlu stated that they had achieved all their targets in their core industries – automotive, energy, finance, and durable goods – in the first half of the year but added that the second half would be more challenging and that the government, NGOs, employers, and all stakeholders must quickly exploit every opportunity that supports dynamism in consumer demand.

LONG-TERM REGULATORY MEASURES WITH INCREASING CONTROL ACROSS THE GLOBE MUST BE TAKEN

Bulgurlu stated that certain crucial measures must be taken throughout the globe to provide permanent growth and to prevent a potential relapse of the economic crisis, as the short-term measures have only served to lessen its effects. With regard to these measures, regulatory and supervisory agencies, rating companies, auditing companies and, lastly, current practices in financial markets must be revamped.