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## **Harvard's Center for European Studies Receives Gift to Establish the Özyeğin Forum on Modern Turkey**

*Philanthropist Hüsni Özyeğin, Daron Acemoğlu, Martti Ahtisaari  
To Speak at Inaugural Events*

**April 13, 2015 (Cambridge, MA)** – Harvard University's Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (CES) today announced a gift by the family of Hüsni Özyeğin, a leading Turkish entrepreneur and highly esteemed philanthropist, to establish the *Özyeğin Forum on Modern Turkey*. The Özyeğin Forum will provide CES new opportunities to incorporate the study of Turkey and its relationship with Europe in its diverse programmatic activities. The new program will include lectures, conferences and cultural events.

"This is a visionary gift, and we are honored to receive it from the Özyeğin family, whose commitment to advancing education is exemplary," said Professor Grzegorz Ekiert, Director of the Center for European Studies. "The establishment of this new program at CES is an important signal that understanding Turkey is fundamental to the study of contemporary Europe."

The Forum has two components: the Hüsni Özyeğin Annual Lecture, a high-profile public event and the Özyeğin Speaker Series, which will support inclusion of themes related to Turkey and Europe in seminars and workshops at CES throughout the academic year. The Özyeğin Speaker Series will commence on April 27<sup>th</sup> at CES with a talk by MIT Professor Daron Acemoğlu entitled "*Turkey: Growing Pains Under History's Long Shadow*." Mr. Özyeğin, Founder of Fiba Holding, will offer introductory remarks. The first Hüsni Özyeğin Annual Lecture will be delivered in the fall by Nobel Laureate and former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari.

"We believe the Özyeğin Forum will contribute to intellectual interaction, sharing of knowledge and incubation of ideas regarding opportunities and challenges of Turkey, particularly in light of its historic and contemporary relationship with Europe," said Mr. Özyeğin. "I hope that this initiative will not only serve the Harvard community but inform all those who are interested in Turkey's potential as an important global actor."

This gift honors Hüsni Özyeğin, a prominent alumnus of Harvard Business School (MBA 1969) and recipient of its 2011 "Harvard Business School Alumni Achievement Award." Özyeğin, a generous supporter of Harvard University for over 20 years, is Founder and Chairman of Fiba Holding and Chairman of Özyeğin University. He has received international acclaim for his

charitable endeavors that support Turkey's social and economic advancement, primarily in the fields of education, rural development, health and culture.

The Center for European Studies was founded in 1969 at Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences to promote the study of Europe and to facilitate the training of new generations of scholars and experts in European studies in the United States. CES was created as an interdisciplinary institution in the social sciences to make possible innovative research and teaching on European history, politics, economy and society. Since its founding, CES has been the site of influential research and has inspired interest in European affairs among Harvard faculty, students and beyond. It has also been the place of extensive intellectual engagement between European and American academics and has trained students who are today among the world's most eminent scholars of Europe and the world leaders of business, public administration, and non-profit organizations.

For more information see: [ces.fas.harvard.edu](https://ces.fas.harvard.edu)

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