

# SECURITY AND SAFETY



As with any high-stake industry, tight and proactive security is of critical importance. The Antwerp diamond industry is no exception to this rule. Given its physical location, the nature of the activities and the international profile of the people and companies in the diamond industry, the Antwerp diamond square mile has a high-risk profile. It is located in the heart of the Jewish quarter, next to the Central Station of Antwerp and is surrounded by shopping centers, hotels and houses. Since Antwerp is known to be the largest diamond trading center worldwide, the diamond square mile can be considered an interesting target for people with bad intentions. It is therefore not surprising that security receives very high priority, also in the opinion of our external stakeholders.

*“Security and safety has to be the number one priority. The AWDC Security Office has done a good job but the risks remain high: the volume and economic value of the goods being traded are paramount and the Antwerp diamond community is very multicultural. The diversity in Antwerp is unique and a selling point but also a threat.” - Stakeholder interviews*

## AWDC SECURITY OFFICE (AWDC SO)

In 2013, the AWDC set up the AWDC Security Office (AWDC SO). The mission of AWDC SO is to safeguard the personnel, products, assets, visitors, reputation and information of the Secure Antwerp Diamond Area (S-ADA) against all internal and external threats, to support, enable and facilitate its business. Together with the City of Antwerp and the Local Police Antwerp, they set up an area called “Secure Antwerp Diamond Area” (S-ADA) as a perimeter that is under very close supervision day and night. The perimeter encloses the three traffic-free streets: Rijnstraat, Schupstraat and Hovenerstraat. Pedestrians and cyclists may enter the area but there is a restriction for vehicles. Access to the S-ADA for vehicles is limited via safety barriers. Vehicles may only enter the area if they are registered and if drivers have been screened by the police. Companies inside the S-ADA do not pay extra for this protection.

The cooperation between the parties and their responsibilities have been set out in two official documents: the ‘Security Protocol Antwerp Diamond Sector’ and the ‘Cooperation Agreement 2016-2019’ between the City of Antwerp, the AWDC and the Province of Antwerp. The AWDC SO acts as a single point of contact (SPOC) to the S-ADA building managers, the bourses, private security companies active within the area, the insurance industry, the City of Antwerp, government services, state security and Local as well as Federal Police, with whom we cooperate closely.

The AWDC SO contributes via various activities to SDG 16: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.” More specifically, they aim to work toward:

- **Target 16.1:** significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- **Target 16.3:** promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all,
- **Target 16.a:** strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacities at all levels, in particular in developing countries, for preventing violence and combating terrorism and crime

## INFORMATION AND AWARENESS

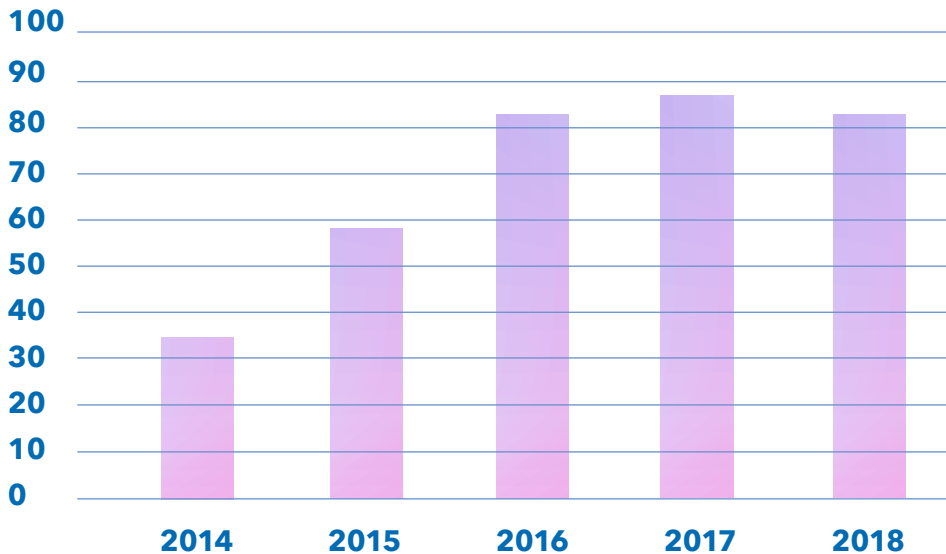
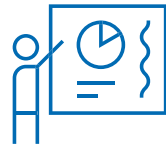
The AWDC SO sets out to be the principle and trusted advisor of the Secure Antwerp Diamond Area (S-ADA) in all security-related matters. Its role is based on cooperation via a two-way information exchange, disseminating information among the respective communities and constituencies of the S-ADA. AWDC SO wants to create greater awareness and emphasizes the importance of reporting any suspicious behavior to the local police, and to make diamond traders vigilant for any kind of activity that might indicate crime.

The AWDC SO operates a reporting desk, where people can report all forms of crime, suspicious matters and security-related issues. Through a single point of contact, the AWDC compiles all the information and passes it through to the respective government agencies.

The AWDC SO provides a wide array of awareness programs, registers and analyses; it reports and communicates on incidents to its stakeholders. They also organize various briefings for the Antwerp diamond community: S-ADA Security Briefing, Anti-tiger kidnapping seminar, Cyber Crime Awareness Briefing, Active Killer Briefing.

The number of briefings increases each year: 34 in 2014, 56 in 2015, 84 in 2016, 87 in 2017 and 84 in 2018. Each seminar has approximately 3 to 10 participants, which means nearly 2,500 persons have already participated.

**SEMINARS ORGANIZED BY AWDC SO**



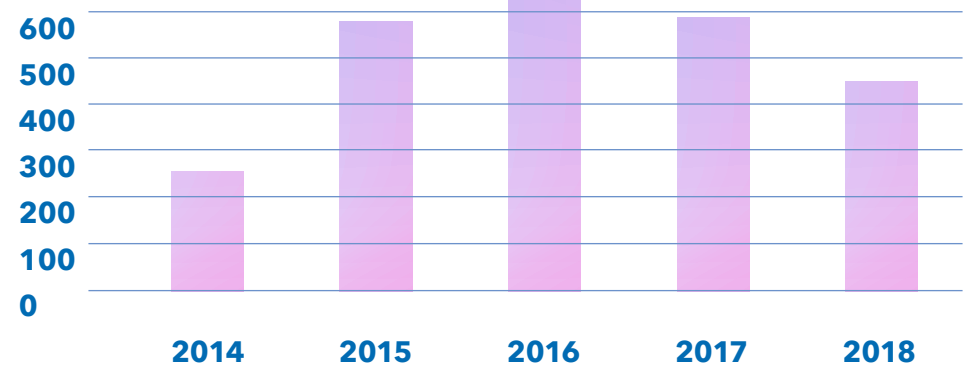
To exchange information and/or increase awareness, the AWDC SO has the following tools in place: the AWDC (SO) newsletter, emails and memos, structural meetings, awareness posters, SMS Alert Message and security-related diamond industry visits.

**INCIDENTS**

When we look at the number of incidents, we see it is increasing with 257 incidents in 2014, 490 in 2015, 547 in 2016, 398 in 2017 and 361 in 2018. Even though it seems as if more incidents occurred between 2014 and 2016, it actually means we were able to map them better as a result of better identification, registration and communication.



**NUMBER OF REGISTERED INCIDENTS IN THE S-ADA**



So, even though the reporting desk gets more reports and AWDC SO identifies more incidents, this does not mean security and safety in the Antwerp diamond square mile is less successful than in previous years. On the contrary, thanks to the efficient cooperation between AWDC SO, the City of Antwerp and the local police, we have more knowledge and resources with which to identify, prevent and fight crime and other potential threats.

**EVACUATION**

To comply with Belgian legislation, the organization of an annual evacuation exercise is legally required for every building and employer in Belgium. AWDC SO organizes this on a yearly basis, with the cooperation of LPA, the city's fire department and Antwerp's Disaster Coordinator. In addition to legal compliance, the other primary objectives of the evacuation exercise are to test and train the S-ADA building managers, LPA and the Emergency services, and familiarize the S-ADA population with the overall evacuation of the diamond square mile, to increase awareness and limit casualties should a real incident occur. During the exercise, AWDC SO and the aforementioned organizing

partners consider every opportunity to minimize the impact and burden on the diamond trade and emergency service availability.

Thanks to the efficient cooperation between the AWDC SO, the City of Antwerp and the local police, we have more knowledge and resources to identify, prevent and fight crime and other potential threats. The success of this cooperation is a result of the will to work together and a shared urgency to avoid any problems. Everyone agrees there is a diffuse (terrorist) threat in the Antwerp Diamond District and is prepared to jointly take measures that contribute to the monitoring and security of the neighborhoods.

Even though this cooperation is successful, there is always room for improvement. The current legislation, for example, restricts public and private parties to sharing the necessary information with each other and is ambiguous in some respects. There is a need to broaden the legal possibilities for information sharing.

These high-security measures might contribute to the image of a closed sector. However, the high level of security in the Antwerp diamond square mile is also one of the competitive strengths of the Antwerp diamond industry, making it a secure environment to trade diamonds. The combination of security and attractiveness is a delicate balance.

