



Press Release

AWDC Expresses Gratitude for Support from Global Diamond Community

The Antwerp World Diamond Centre expresses its sincere gratitude for the many messages of support and solidarity from diamond organizations around the world after the tragic attacks in Brussels on Tuesday. Among the many organizations sending their condolences to AWDC and Belgium are: World Diamond Council, World Federation of Diamond Bourses, International Diamond Manufacturers Organization, India's Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council and Russian miner ALROSA. AWDC CEO Ari Epstein says, "The outpouring of sympathy, support and solidarity for the people of Belgium has been overwhelming. At times like these, one realizes that despite our particular interests, deep down we are part of a global community, and the diamond industry is a microcosm of that community. On behalf of AWDC and all the members Belgian diamond community we represent, I would personally like to thank all those who have reached out to express their concern and support."

AWDC, short for Antwerp World Diamond Centre, is an industry-established foundation, whose mission is to serve and support the diamond business in Antwerp, the world's most important diamond trade hub. AWDC is the coordinating body and the official representative of the Antwerp diamond sector, and as such are recognized internationally as the host, spokesperson and intermediary for the Belgian diamond community. In this capacity, AWDC liaises on behalf of the Belgian diamond sector with governments and actively promotes support for the diamond sector at home and abroad.

84% of all rough diamonds and 50% of all polished diamonds pass through Antwerp. Diamonds represent 5% of the total Belgian exports and 15% of all Belgian exports outside the EU, making diamonds the most important export product outside the EU.

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