



Press Release

Antwerp diamond industry organizes evacuation exercise

Antwerp, November 8th 2013 – Today, the Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) organized a large-scale evacuation exercise in the Antwerp diamond district. The exercise was the result of a cooperation between AWDC, the City of Antwerp and the Local Antwerp Police Department. The majority of the buildings and the companies located in the diamond district participated. Approximately 2200 people were evacuated.

Security and safety are critical aspects in the Antwerp diamond industry. AWDC, as representative of the Antwerp diamond industry, and more specifically the AWDC Security Office (AWDC SO), play a crucial role in maintaining and coordinating security in the Antwerp diamond square mile. The mission of AWDC Security Office is to support and facilitate the diamond business, and to protect the diamond community's personnel, products, reputation, as well as information and assets against all internal, external, deliberate or accidental threats.

The goal of this evacuation exercise was to test all relevant security procedures in a controlled environment. Furthermore, these exercises are legally obliged and take place at least once a year. Participating companies received a certificate, necessary for insurance purposes.

AWDC wants to thank the City of Antwerp and the Local Antwerp Police Department for the excellent coordination and cooperation during this evacuation exercise.

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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Diamonds love Antwerp

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