



Press release

AWDC congratulates Andrey Zharkov on being elected President of ALROSA

Ari Epstein, CEO of the Antwerp World Diamond Centre, has congratulated Andrey Zharkov on his 23 April appointment as President of the Russian diamond mining company ALROSA. Highlighting the excellent partnership between AWDC and ALROSA, which he considers a key strategic asset, Mr. Epstein also extended an open invitation for Mr. Zharkov to visit the Antwerp diamond industry in the light of continued bilateral cooperation.

“The ongoing dialogue between the world’s largest producers of rough diamonds and the world’s leading diamond centre is not only vital for the well-being of both our countries’ industries, but also for the long term benefit of the diamond industry worldwide, which relies on the roles our organizations play in enabling the efficient and sustainable flow of goods through the pipeline as well as the protection of the diamond equity,” writes Epstein.

Zharkov was most recently the deputy head of Gokhran, the Russian state’s precious metals and gems repository, and chairman of the board at Kristall Production Corp., the diamond wholesale company. His previous positions include: senior dealer and head of precious metals at the Bank of Russia; head of department and chief engineer at MMC Norilsk Nickel, the nickel and palladium mining company; chief commercial officer at Prioksky Nonferrous Metals Plant; and board member at Novosibirsk Refinery Plant, the gold refinery.

Born in Geneva, Andrey Vyacheslavovich Zharkov graduated from Moscow State Linguistic University in 1995 with a degree in foreign languages, and in 1998 he obtained a degree in accounting and auditing from Moscow State University of Commerce.

Zharkov will serve a three-year term.

Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) 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 is 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.

Diamonds love Antwerp

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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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