



Press Release

AWDC informs banks at diamond financing seminar in Davos

***Antwerp, 22 January 2015* - In the margins of the World Economic Forum, the Antwerp World Diamond Centre set up a dedicated diamond-financing seminar in Davos, introduced by Flemish Minister President Mr Geert Bourgeois and attended by international financial institutions.**

The initiative is part of a strategy to inform banks and key players in the financial sector on the specific dynamics and functioning of diamond financing. Today, a mere 5% of global financial institutions is involved in the niche market of diamond industry financing.

Apart from providing seminar participants more information on the strengths of Antwerp as the world's leading diamond trade hub and the underlying dynamics of the global diamond industry from mine to finger, the seminar discussed the future outlook and challenges ahead, especially in terms of sustainable diamond financing for the industry. Alongside these elements, AWDC also provided more insight into the growing demand for diamonds as an investment product and presented the initiatives AWDC is undertaking to boost this evolution.

Furthermore ABN-AMRO's Sabine Smets, Head Belgium D&JC, - International Clients, elaborated on the future prospect of diamond financing from a bankers' perspective, underpinning the importance of profitability and transparency as crucial elements in a changed diamond-financing paradigm.

The seminar was concluded by a networking event, allowing participants to discuss the potential of diamond financing further.

The Antwerp World Diamond Centre (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.

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 Antwerp¹

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