



Press release

## Antwerp diamond sector trade figures remain positive

**Antwerp, 10 July 2014 – June trade figures of the Antwerp diamond sector are positive, both in terms of import and export of rough diamonds. As concerns trade in polished diamonds, we note that less but more expensive goods were traded last month, in comparison with June 2013.**

The rough diamond trade figures in June follow the positive trend of the last months. Both import and export figures continue to be strong. As compared to June of last year, the volume of exported diamonds rose by 27,39%, while imports grew by 21,31%. This translates to a 4,96% and 19,99% increase in value, respectively. Overall we can see a 20% boost in the goods being traded in June 2014 as compared to June 2013.

Looking at the figures for the import of polished diamonds, we notice an increase of 4,97% in value and a decrease of 10,38% in terms of volume. This points to the fact that fewer but more expensive stones were brought onto the market. Most of these more valuable stones came from Hong Kong, India and Israel. We see the opposite trend for stones coming in from the US; the volume of stones was higher while the value was lower. The volume jump was the result of the JCK fair in Vegas, which facilitated peak trade activity within the US. Finally, on the import side, a rise in polished diamonds from Russia was also apparent, demonstrating that Antwerp purchased more goods on the Russian market this June as compared to the same month last year.

As regards exports of polished diamonds, the value figures were steady, with a decline in traded volume. Also here we note trade in more expensive stones, which left for Hong Kong and Israel. As with the import figures, we see the opposite phenomenon when it comes to the US, to which fewer and less expensive stones were exported. The notable surge in exports of polished diamonds to India and China is a consequence of the significant decline of exports to both countries in June of last year. Currently, we are seeing a resurgence of goods heading to these markets.

**AWDC**, 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 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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