



## PRESS RELEASE

### Volume of both export and import of diamonds rose in March 2013

*Caroline De Wolf, communications manager AWDC: "The diamond business in Antwerp is doing well when you look at the first three months of the year. Both import and export of rough and polished diamonds rose, compared to last month. The figures of March 2013 versus those of one year earlier are virtually incomparable due to fact that some international trade fairs and the DTC sight took place in a different month."*

Compared to March 2012, the volume of **exported polished diamonds** decreased by 5.86 percent this month. In value terms, this translates into a 12.02 percent drop. This is mainly a result of the fact that in 2012, the Basel Show was organized in March. However, this year, the Basel Show takes place in April. This implies that the export of polished diamonds out of Antwerp to Switzerland in March is lower compared to 2012.

However, in comparison to last month, the amount of **exported polished diamonds** rose by 4.96 percent to 614,600.99 carat in March 2013. The average price per carat of polished diamond equaled 1,975 U.S. dollar in March 2013.

Another example of the changes on the diamond calendar compared to last year is the Hong Kong Diamond trade fair. Last year the fair took place in February, whereas this year it was organized in March. This also explains the 84 percent increase of exported polished goods to Hong Kong in March 2013, compared to March 2012.

The **import figures of polished diamonds** show a decrease of 1.79 percent in volume terms and a drop of 2.75 percent in value terms. Compared to February 2013 however, we see an increase of 40.58 percent in volume terms and one of 55.27 percent in value terms.

When we take a look at the figures of **exported rough diamonds** in March 2013, we see a drop of 20.94 percent in volume terms, and a decrease of 3.91 percent in value – all compared to last year.

By studying the **import figures of rough diamonds**, we see a decrease of 12.08 percent in volume terms and a drop of 13.19 percent in value terms compared to March 2012. In comparison to last month, the volume of imported rough diamonds rose by 6.21 percent, which translates into a 2.46 percent rise in terms of value.

The figures of the trade in rough diamonds are very different from the results of March 2012, largely due to the fact that last year the DTC sight took place in March, whereas this year, it is scheduled to take place in April.

# Diamonds love Antwerp