



Press Release

Antwerp Diamond Night Moscow affirms alliance with Russian diamond industry

Antwerp, 13 March 2014 - On Wednesday evening, a delegation of the Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) and representatives of no less than 35 Antwerp diamond companies met with a delegation of the Gokhran Of Russia, the State Precious Metals and Gems Repository, ALROSA's top management and other stakeholders of the Russian diamond industry, during an exclusive Antwerp Diamond Night at the Belgian Embassy in Moscow.

The exclusive networking event, organized by AWDC, and was the perfect opportunity for both long-term clients and other Belgian companies to benefit from the strategic alliance between the world's largest diamond-mining country, represented by members of the Russian State Precious Metals and Gems Repository, Gokhran, members of the ALROSA Executive Committee, and the industry's foremost diamond trading hub, Antwerp. The event was hosted by the Belgian Ambassador to the Russian Federation, His Excellency Alex Van Meeuwen and attended by AWDC President, Stéphane Fischler, Vice President Kaushik Mehta, and Board Director Ramesh Patel.

Over the past few years, the Russian-Antwerp relationship has been thriving. In terms of import, Russia remains one of the most important suppliers of rough diamonds for Antwerp; in 2013 Antwerp imported an impressive 22.8 million carats, constituting 25% of all Antwerp rough imports and equaling a value of 2.8 billion US\$. On average, more than 50% of the ALROSA rough diamonds, both in terms of volume and value, are traded in Antwerp, home to the largest concentration of ALROSA's long-term clients.

Just a few months ago, ALROSA signed a new Cooperation Agreement with the Antwerp World Diamond Centre that further formalizes their cooperation over the next three years. The agreement includes the intention for both parties to contribute to the development of a competitive rough and polished diamond market in Russia and to the promotion of rough sales in Antwerp, a formalized exchange of information and knowledge on various facets of the industry and educational opportunities.

The highlight of the evening was the signing and exchange of a Memorandum of Understanding by AWDC's President Stéphane Fischler and Mr. Andrei Yurin, Head of the Gokhran of Russia, the State Precious Metals and Gem Repository. The MoU commits both parties to exchange market information, knowledge and technology and to work more closely towards their common goal of strengthening the reputation of the natural diamonds market.

Diamonds love Antwerp

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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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