



Press release

## Global diamond industry lays foundation for Kimberley Process 2.0 during KP Intersessional meeting in Antwerp

**Antwerp, June 22, 2018 - From June 19 to 22, Antwerp was the host city for the Kimberley Process (KP) Intersessional meeting. This year, the European Union occupied the KP Chair. The global diamond community - consisting of diamond-producing and trading countries, the diamond industry and civil society - gathered together to assess the current state of affairs and look forward to the future of the KP. Antwerp has always played a leading role in promoting transparency in the diamond trade, was present at the birth of the KP and participated in the creation of the World Diamond Council (WDC), which represents the interests of the global diamond industry within the KP. The fact that the KP touched down in Antwerp for its annual Intersessional meeting was therefore an extremely significant moment for Antwerp.**

2018 is an important year for the KP, which is at a crucial stage of its development. Under the leadership of the European Union, the KP is discussing an ambitious reform agenda with three priorities: a **deepening of the KP**, including the reinforcement of the system of controls and the transformation of KP recommendations into minimum requirements; an **expansion of the KP** by means of broadening the definition of conflict diamonds; and **professionalization of the KP** by, among others, the establishment of a permanent KP secretariat.

During the KP Intersessional, participants and observers engaged in a thorough discussion of the reform agenda in order to lay the foundation for decisions that will be taken during the KP Plenary meeting at the end of the year. Taking place in Brussels this coming November, it is hoped that it will be the start of the KP 2.0, fit for purpose to contemporary challenges.

The KP was established in 2003 with the objective to eliminate conflict diamonds from the diamond trade. Since its establishment, the percentage of conflict diamonds has declined to 0.2% from an estimated 10%, which enables it to say, 'mission accomplished'.

However, consumer demands have changed over the years, and the KP needs to adapt accordingly. Today's consumers place great importance on the socio-economic value of diamonds. It is therefore very important that the KP broadens its mandate. During this KP Intersessional, civil society as well as the global diamond industry - serving as Observers inside the KP - declared themselves ready for the broadening of the definition of conflict diamonds.

Furthermore, the global diamond industry - in support of the KP - developed its own standards years ago to ensure that diamonds are mined and traded in an ethical and transparent

# Diamonds love Antwerp

Private Stichting – Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) • Hoveniersstraat 22, BE-2018 Antwerpen, Belgium  
T +32 3 222 05 11 • F+32 3 222 05 99 • info@awdc.be • www.awdc.be • BTW – BE 0885 969 987



manner. The Responsible Jewellery Council, the Diamond Development Initiative and the WDC's updated System of Warranties are clear examples of this effort.

The industry in this regard affirms the ambitious perspective of the European Union, the current KP Chair. Therefore, both hope that the more conservative members of the KP will arrive at new insights during this Intersessional meeting, so that the KP may continue to reinvent itself and evolve in such a way as to keep up with the times.

Antwerp will - as it has always done - continue to play a leading role, and hopes to be able to strengthen the KP. The discussions that took place this week will be continued during the Plenary Meeting in Brussels from November 12 - 16, 2018.

The **Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC)**, coordinates and officially represents the Antwerp diamond industry, the global leader in the diamond trade. In this role, AWDC promotes the entire diamond industry at home and abroad. AWDC is also recognized internationally as the point of contact, spokesperson and intermediary for the entire Belgian diamond community.

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.

**Press contact:**

Margaux Donckier

Head of PR & Communications and AWDC spokeswoman

[mado@awdc.be](mailto:mado@awdc.be)

0478/32.47.97

# Diamonds love Antwerp

Private Stichting – Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) • Hoveniersstraat 22, BE-2018 Antwerpen, Belgium  
T +32 3 222 05 11 • F+32 3 222 05 99 • [info@awdc.be](mailto:info@awdc.be) • [www.awdc.be](http://www.awdc.be) • BTW – BE 0885 969 987