



Press release

National Bank of Fujairah opens new office in Antwerp Diamond District

Antwerp, 7 April 2019 – The National Bank of Fujairah, a bank with years of experience in the diamond sector in Dubai, is opening its new representative office today in Antwerp. The bank selected Antwerp as the place to expand its activities in the diamond industry.

The purpose of their representative office is to help service their Antwerp-based customers by being closer to them and by providing market intelligence to their headquarters in the UAE. The bank is opening its first international representative office in the heart of Antwerp's diamond district.

"The arrival of this bank demonstrates that the Antwerp diamond industry offers an attractive business opportunity for financial service providers," said Ari Epstein, CEO AWDC. "Anyone that does his homework and is prepared to acquire thorough knowledge about the diamond industry, will recognize that the many strict measures applicable to the diamond industry enable a financial service provider to develop a robust business."

The National Bank of Fujairah conducted a thorough analysis of the various diamond trading centers and opted for Antwerp as the location to open a new representative office. "Antwerp is the largest trade center in the world for rough diamonds," said Vince Cook, CEO NBF, "which is why it seemed to us the obvious location to expand our specialized financial services to this sector. In this way, we will be better able to serve the needs of our clients, who are present in Dubai as well as Antwerp."

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.

86% 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 Antwerp

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