



PRESS RELEASE

Stephane Fischler elected as new AWDC President

Antwerp, June 15th - 2012. Today, during the first meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors of the AWDC, the Board members elected Mr. Stephane Fischler as the new President for the AWDC.

The Board of Directors also appointed Mr. Kaushik Mehta as Vice-President, representing the trade, and Mr. Philippe Barsamian as Vice-President representing the Bourses.

After paying homage to his predecessor, Mr. Nishit Parikh, Stephane Fischler said, "Antwerp has a unique peoples infrastructure and a unique pool of talents, in and outside our industry. Together, we must strengthen and promote our common and rich history for the benefit of all. I firmly believe we need to focus on further anchoring our industry in our local society; share the value of our entrepreneurship and global networks with Antwerp, Flanders and our country."

AWDC's CEO Ari Epstein: "Firstly, I sincerely congratulate Mr. Fischler on his election as AWDC President. Mr. Fischler can bow on many years of in-depth experience in the diamond industry and a long record of public service. He is highly respected in and well known for his dedication towards the Antwerp diamond community and beyond. With Mr. Fischler leading the Board, I'm confident we will successfully continue our ambitious Masterplan projects in the future."

Mr. Fischler was born in Antwerp in 1958. He is a third-generation diamantaire who started working at Fischler Diamonds in 1979. The company was founded in 1953 by Aby and Cappi Fischler, and by the late Bram Fischler, who served as President of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses, the Antwerp Diamond Bourse and the HRD. Stephane Fischler is currently a partner in the company.

Over the years Mr. Fischler has held many executive positions in various industry bodies. He has served as Vice President of SBD (the Belgian Diamond Manufacturers Association) since 1994. He also served as Vice President of IDMA from 1996 to 1997 and Secretary-General/Treasurer of IDMA from 1998 to 2008. In addition, he served as President of WTOCD (the HRD research center) from 1998 to 1999, and has been a member of its board for several years. Mr. Fischler is a founding member of the World Diamond Council (WDC). He has also been HRD's Treasurer from 2005 till 2008 and served as Vice President of the AWDC over the past two years. He is the current Chairman of the International Diamond Council.

Diamonds love Antwerp