



Press Release

WDC meeting in Antwerp: looking to the future

Antwerp, 31 October 2014 – From 28 to 30 October, members of the World Diamond Council assembled in Antwerp for the 2014 Annual General Meeting. The discussions focused on issues associated with the Kimberley Process, 14 years after its establishment, and the role of the WDC in relation to the risks facing the KP. AWDC was very proud to host an event of such importance.

Upon his election as new President of the WDC, Edward Asscher stressed the need to reform the organization into a transparent, professional and truly representative organization for the industry. During the General Meeting, WDC members took the lead in discussing diamond industry issues currently at stake and agreed on a number of steps and follow-up in these matters.

Subjects of discussion were, among others, the various ethical, legal and financial issues brought forward by the KP, including the content of the letter sent by the FATF to the KP Chair.

“AWDC is very proud to host this important event. The World Diamond Council (WDC) has done much good for the diamond industry and the support of the Kimberley Process (KP). But continuous evaluation and further professionalization is key to meet the challenges of the future”, said Stéphane Fischler, President of AWDC.

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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Diamonds love Antwerp

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