



News Release

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World Diamond Congress Set to Take Place Against Spectacular Dubai Backdrop

Antwerp, Belgium – May 10, 2016: With the start of the 37th World Diamond Congress just days away, the gathering is set to be among the best-attended and most impressive ever held, reflecting renewed optimism in the diamond trade internationally. In addition to top-level speakers from different areas of the diamond pipeline, the organizers, the Dubai Diamond Exchange, have created a special social programme for spouses of attendees and a spectacular Gala Dinner for the biennial meeting of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) and the International Diamond Manufacturers Association (IDMA). The Congress takes place in Dubai from May 16 to 19.

"The excitement is mounting because this promises to be a momentous meeting," said WFDB President Ernie Blom. "The diamond business seems to have turned a corner and there is a palpable feeling of change. Rough diamond sales in the first months of this year have been very strong, and companies are building up their inventories.

"There are many challenges, of course, and we will be addressing them with the utmost seriousness. We are looking forward to some very interesting speeches and debates, as well as networking with colleagues from across the diamond world. We will be hearing from leading producers, financiers and marketing people amongst others. And our Presidents will also want to add their own specific perspectives in line with the Congress themes of 'Transparency, Responsibility, Sustainability.'

"But there will also be social events for attendees and spouses. They play a special role in creating a perfect Congress atmosphere, and we are all looking forward to meeting colleagues and creating new industry relationships," Blom concluded.

For more details about the 37th World Diamond Congress and for registration, please visit the Congress site at: <http://www.diamondcongress2016.com>



WFDB President Ernie Blom.

ABOUT THE WFDB:

The World Federation of Diamond Bourses has 30 affiliated bourse members and exists to protect the interests of affiliated bourses and their individual members, and also to further the amicable settlement or arbitration of disputes between individual members of the affiliated bourses and/or between affiliated bourses. The WFDB participates in the promotion of world trade and encourages the establishment of new diamond bourses. In 2012, it established The World Diamond Mark, a not-for-profit organisation, to promote consumer desirability and confidence in diamonds.

Members of affiliated bourses pledge to uphold the traditions, principles of mutual trust, consideration and friendship which prevail among the members of the bourses worldwide. They also pledge themselves to abide by and hand down these principles and to ensure that they will forever serve as a basis in business relations between members of affiliated bourses.