



## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT**

Ya'akov Almor

Tel: +972-53-522-685

E-mail: [mrktdrct@zahav.net.il](mailto:mrktdrct@zahav.net.il)

### **WFDB mourns former president Bram Fischler**

*Antwerp, September 15, 2003* – The board of directors of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses has paid tribute to its former president, Abraham (Bram) Fischler, who died in Antwerp on Wednesday, September 10, at the age of 78. Speaking on behalf of the board, WFDB President Shmuel Schnitzer described Fischler as a standard bearer for the world diamond industry, and as a man who led by his own example. “Bram will be sorely missed,” Schnitzer said.

“I am sure that I am expressing the sadness felt by all who knew Bram, who worked with him, and who had the privilege of spending time in his presence,” Schnitzer said. “He was a truly righteous individual, who was proud of his heritage and proud to be a diamantaire. He was an uncompromising protector of the ethics and traditions of our business, and for that we are all in his debt. The WFDB and its membership worldwide offer their sincere condolences to his family.”

“Bram Fischler was both humble and impressive,” said Michael Vaughan, the Secretary-General, of the WFDB. “Extremely clear thinking and brutally honest, he was never shy to speak his mind. Those of us who were fortunate to have known him and to have worked together with him are all too aware of the loss that we have suffered with his passing.”

Fischler served as president of the WFDB between 2000 and 2002, and at the World Diamond Congress in London in 2002 was named an Honorary WFDB President for Life. Until his death, he served as president of the Beurs voor Diamanthandel in Antwerp, which is a position to which he was first elected in 1986. In 1998, he was elected president of the Federation of Belgian Diamond Bourses, which is the umbrella body representing the common interests of Antwerp’s four diamond exchanges.

Fischler’s personal history was a testament to his tenacity. Forced to leave Belgium in 1940 with the Nazi invasion, he spent the war years in Cuba, where he helped set up a small cutting industry. He was among the diamantaires who returned to Belgium at the end of World War II, and helped revive the dormant Antwerp diamond sector. Together with his cousins, Aby and Cappi, he created Fischler Diamonds in 1952, and in 1962 it was appointed a sightholder of the Diamond Trading Company (DTC).

Fischler was fiercely proud of life’s work. But he generally cited the rebuilding of his family after the devastation it suffered during the years of the Holocaust as his greatest achievement.

\* \* \* \* \*