

NFWS RFLFASE

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HOPE BELGIUM N. V. - RE-CERTIFIED BY THE RJC

LONDON - RJC announced today that Hope Belgium N. V., the Belgian diamond trader, has achieved Re-Certification by meeting the highest ethical, social and environmental standards established by the RJC.

"RJC congratulates Hope Belgium N. V. on achieving Re-Certification. Hope Belgium N. V. was first certified in 2011. After a Member has become RJC Certified for the first time, independent verification is required at the end of each certification period to ensure continued conformance and thereby maintain Certified Member status," says Ashish Deo, RJC's Chief Executive Officer.

The successful verification assessment was conducted by Stefaan Beirens from Figurad Bedrijfsrevisoren, one of the independent third-party auditing firms accredited by the RJC.

"Hope Belgium N. V. is proud and happy to achieve the RJC Re-Certification. The management believes strongly in setting high quality and ethical Standards. Besides this, being a Certified Member for the past three years, gave us the opportunity to strive to continuously improve our business practices. Our suppliers and customers are assured of our commitment to the diamond industry," says Kazunori Kuroda, Managing Director, Hope Belgium N. V.

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit standards and certification organisation. It has more than 500 Member companies that span the jewellery supply chain from mine to retail. RJC Members commit to and are independently audited against the RJC Code of Practices – an international standard on responsible business practices for diamonds, gold and platinum group metals. The Code of Practices addresses human rights, labour rights, environmental impact, mining practices, product disclosure and many more important topics in the jewellery supply chain. RJC also works with multi-stakeholder initiatives on responsible sourcing and supply chain due diligence. The RJC's Chain-of-Custody Certification for precious metals supports these initiatives and can be used as a tool to deliver broader Member and stakeholder benefit.

The RJC is a <u>Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance</u> – the global association for sustainability standards. For more information on RJC Members, Certification, and Standards please visit <u>www.responsiblejewellery.com</u>

About Hope Belgium N. V.

Hope Belgium N. V. was founded in August 2011. The company is specialized in manufacturing round 'Hearts & Arrows', from 0.05 cts $^{\sim}$ 2.50 cts, in the color range from D $^{\sim}$ I, and clarity from IF / FL $^{\sim}$ SI 2. Besides the round stones Hope Belgium N. V. created the 'Ideal Square Cut', patented under the name 'Brellia'.

RJC Certification Information – Hope Belgium N. V.

RJC Certified Members

www.responsiblejewellery.com