



## NEWS RELEASE

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### THE RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL CLOSSES ITS 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STAKEHOLDER EVENT WITH FOCUS ON MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

LONDON – The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and external stakeholder event today at Milan’s Palazzo Giureconsulti.

All resolutions proposed were passed: the directors' report and financial statements were accepted, Mr James Courage, CEO, Platinum Guild International, was formally elected as RJC’s Chairman, and Ferial Zerouki, Best Practice Principles Manager, De Beers Group, was elected as Honorary Treasurer.

Michael Steinmetz (Leo Schachter, USA), Ryan Taylor (Fair Trade Jewellery Co, Canada), Christine Boquet (Syndicat Saint Eloi, France), Donna Baker (GIA, USA), Mauro di Roberto (Bulgari S.p.A., Italy), David Gavin (David Greg Jewellery, Canada), Neil Richard Harby (Rand Refinery, South Africa) and Ivana Ciabatti (Italpreziosi S.p.A., Italy) were each elected to the Board of Directors, each representing their respective Member Fora, including diamond trading, cutting and polishing; jewellery retailer; jewellery manufacturer and wholesaler; service industries; trade associations; and gold, platinum group metals traders, refiners and/or hedgers.

The AGM was followed by a Standards update from Dr. Fiona Solomon, RJC Director - Standards Development. Dr. Solomon highlighted the progress in the RJC Standards program over the last 12 months, including the Code of Practices review and RJC’s key role in the area of responsible sourcing. Ms Effie Marinos, Sustainability Manager at SGS, gave an auditor perspective on the value of third party assurance for businesses. Dr. Gaetano Cavalieri, President, CIBJO, followed with overview of the value of CSR education to the jewellery industry, and the synergies between CIBJO and RJC.

Following the Standards update, a Panel Discussion on *Responsibility and Assurance in the Jewellery & Watch Industry* focused on industry leaders discussing responsible business practices and the importance of the RJC Certification system. This session was moderated by Bitthal Maheswari the EU Representative from India’s Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). Monica Cellerino, Unicredit Bank, Maria Benedetta Francesconi, Italian Ministry of Economic Development, and Augusto Ungarelli, Club degli Orafi Italia, opened the session with their sector’s perspectives on the jewellery industry. Licia Mattioli, Confindustria Federorafi, Massimo Poliero, Legor Group, Mauro Di Roberto, Bulgari S.p.A. and Paola Signoretto presented their experiences with RJC standards and certification and what they mean for their organisations. Isabella Pratesi, WWF Italia, outlined the importance for the jewellery industry to engage on sustainability issues and responsible practices.

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“The RJC shares two distinguishing features that set it apart from other bodies – it offers its members the ability to certify their business practices against a rigorous standard, while also fostering a platform of engagement both within the mine to retail model and with the external stakeholder community. We are now entering the next phase of the RJC’s role in the industry, where our focus will be to join up more members across all sectors, so we may make an indelible mark of ethics and synergy in years to come,” says Mr. James Courage, RJC Chairman.

RJC also released its 2013 Annual Progress Report at the event, with an e-version of the downloadable [here](#) and available on the RJC website.

“I sincerely thank Unicredit Bank for their wonderful support in hosting the RJC AGM this year. I also wish to thank Assogemme, Bulgari, Confindustria Federorafi, Club degli Orafi and the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) for their organization and support. Their voices helped shape a very successful program,” says Mr. Michael Rae, RJC CEO.

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#### **About RJC**

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 440 member companies. RJC and its Members are committed to promoting responsible ethical, human rights, social and environmental practices in a transparent and accountable manner throughout the jewellery industry from mine to retail. This commitment aims to reinforce consumer and stakeholder confidence in diamond, gold and platinum metals jewellery products. The RJC has developed the RJC Member Certification system which applies to all Members’ businesses that contribute to the diamond, gold and platinum metals jewellery supply chain. All Certified Members of the RJC are audited by accredited, third party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC’s Code of Practices. A voluntary Chain-of-Custody Standard has also been developed for gold and platinum group metals. The RJC is a [Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance](#) – the global association for sustainability standards. For more information on RJC Members, Certification, and Standards please visit [www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

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