



## Responsible Jewellery Council

### NEWS RELEASE

Embargoed until 4 June 2010

### FOUNDING MEMBER ABN AMRO BECOMES SUPPORTER OF THE RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL

LONDON – The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) today announced that ABN AMRO, one of the RJC’s founding Members, has become an official Supporter of the Council and resigned as a Commercial Member.

“The Responsible Jewellery Council has completed its research and development phase and is now implementing the RJC System, its certification system for the independent third party certification of companies involved in the jewellery trade. The RJC System requires all Commercial Members of RJC to be participants in the jewellery supply chain and be audited under the RJC System. Because the RJC System does not apply to banking entities, it is appropriate for ABN AMRO to now resign as a Commercial Member of RJC,” says Michael Rae, Chief Executive Officer.

“All RJC Members are profoundly grateful for the key role ABN AMRO played in the development of the RJC System, both as a founding member of the RJC’s board of directors and through its efforts as a very active participant in the early work of the Council’s Standards Committee,” says Michael Rae.

“The RJC sincerely thanks ABN AMRO for its outstanding contribution to the Council’s founding and the development of the RJC System. At the same time, the RJC gratefully and proudly acknowledges ABN AMRO’s ongoing commitment to RJC evident in its agreement to be recognised as a Supporter of the RJC,” says Michael Rae.

ABN AMRO’s recognition as a Supporter of the RJC acknowledges the company’s ongoing significant active support to the Principles and objectives of the Council through financial contribution, commitment of resources in kind, public advocacy and/or support for Council project activity.

ABN AMRO, with its team of specialists, the International Diamond and Jewelry Group (ID&JG), is a global market leader in offering financial services to the diamond and jewellery industry.

“The diamond and jewellery industry has been a key component of our bank’s focus for nearly a century, making ABN AMRO the oldest dedicated banking partner to the industry. We provide industry authority, with a strong interest and commitment on the global scene. As the industry’s lead bank, ABN AMRO is strongly positioned to provide our clients and the industry stakeholders

[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

with responsible business practices aligned with the Responsible Jewellery Council and to continue supporting the Council in all its future endeavors,” says Belinda Schouten, COO International Diamond and Jewelry Group, ABN AMRO Bank.

“The accreditation of the first auditors to the RJC System completes the task that ABN AMRO and the other founders of the RJC undertook in launching the Council back in 2005. I think it is highly appropriate that ABN AMRO shares in the success of this landmark event, by reminding all Members and interested parties that the company has been a major financial and intellectual leader in the genesis and fruition of the RJC ideal,” says Michael Rae.

For further information please contact:

Mila Bonini, Communications Manager +39 02 48002801, [Mila.bonini@responsiblejewellery.com](mailto:Mila.bonini@responsiblejewellery.com)

### **About RJC**

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 230 member companies 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. Their commitment aims to reinforce consumer and stakeholder confidence in diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery products.

The Council has developed the RJC System, a certification system – which will apply to all Members’ businesses that contribute to the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery supply chain. All Commercial Members of the RJC are required to be audited by accredited, third party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC’s Code of Practices and become certified under the RJC System. A full list of its Members can be found on the web at [www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

### **About ABN AMRO**

ABN AMRO enjoys a long tradition of close involvement in the global industry for diamonds and jewelry. As part of the continuous focus on creating value for clients and stakeholders, a dedicated team of specialists was established: The International Diamond and Jewelry Group (ID&JG). ID&JG is the global market leader in offering financial services to the diamond and jewelry industry. With a strong focus on building and nurturing long term partnerships, their goal is to provide optimal service to their clients and remain the industry’s lead bank. Like the industry’s value chain, ID&JG’s network spans the globe. They have a strong and unique presence in the industry’s key locations, like Belgium, the US, India, UAE, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Botswana, China, Japan and the Netherlands which provides local market knowledge on a global scale. In October 2007 ABN AMRO was acquired by a consortium of 3 banks - Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), Fortis and Banco Santander. On 3 October 2008, the Dutch state announced that it had bought Fortis Bank Nederland, including its interests in ABN AMRO. On 1 April 2010, the ABN AMRO business acquired by the Dutch State, was legally separated from the business acquired by RBS. In the 3rd quarter of 2010 the legal merger between ABN AMRO and Fortis Bank Nederland will be effective and ABN AMRO will continue under the name ABN AMRO Group, an independent bank, owned by the Dutch Government. More information on <http://idig.abnamro.com/>

###

[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)