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# EUROPEAN JEWELLERY

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The European Federation of Jewellery (EFJ) was founded in 2013 by recognised national associations from Belgium, France, Italy and Portugal, which together represent over 60% of all jewellery items manufactured and distributed in Europe.

The EFJ defends the interests of the EU jewellery sector and promotes the achievement of excellence through high-level education, innovation and exchange of best practices.

**Discover our leaflet**

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## Letter to EU Commissioner McGuinness: for an EU harmonised cash payment ceiling

The EFJ called Mairead McGuinness (EU Commissioner for financial services, financial stability and Capital Markets Union) **to integrate the harmonisation of cash payments ceilings in business-to-consumer transactions in the future legislative proposal on an EU single rulebook.** This crucial measure could help fight money laundering efficiently.

Indeed, the current diverging thresholds existing in the European Union contribute to fueling money laundering by leaving the possibility to ill-intentioned people to choose countries with no cash payment limit to carry out cash transactions.

It is worth noting that in the European Union, the range is broad with some countries having limits going from 1000 € to 15.000 € and others having none.



[Read our letter to Commissioner Mairead McGuinness](#)

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**Our contribution to the EU public consultation on sustainable  
corporate governance**

Due diligence is still at the heart of the EFJ's preoccupations. This is why we answered [the European Commission's public consultation on Sustainable Corporate governance](#) in February.

In our feedback, we recalled that the EFJ **supports the idea of an EU-wide cross-sectorial legislative framework on due diligence**. However, the future requirements should remain coherent with the ones already in place, a level playing field should be ensured for EU companies at European and international level and an appropriate support mechanism should be set up to help companies and in particular SMEs comply with the rules.

You can read on our website [the updated version of the position paper on mandatory due diligence](#).

Learn more in our infographic



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## **How to improve the system of mutual recognition of goods for the jewellery sector?**

On 23 February, the EFJ participated in the European Commission Expert Group meeting on Mutual Recognition of Goods. We presented the **current barriers preventing the free circulation of precious metals in the internal market**.

Many technical standards are not harmonised between EU countries, such as fineness standards, weight exemptions, soldering, sampling, methods of analysis... and this is slowing down the jewellery trade. Furthermore, national control systems are not harmonised and mutually recognised.

The EFJ considers that **controls of precious metal content (fineness) and the additional stamping of certification made by national/local authorities is an unjustified double check**. As every EU country has its own system and often offices to authorise jewellery products with an identification stamp, the additional check in the country of destination is a double activity, with significant negative consequences such as:

- destruction / damage of at least one piece of jewellery to make the analysis
- more costs (analysis and stamping of each jewel)
- more stamps put in a very narrow space
- more time needed to deliver the final product to the client
- if the result of the analysis is negative, the jewellery item is sent back to the supplier generating costs, waste of time, etc.

Learn more about the subject and the proposed solutions

## Examples of hallmarking



8

## jewel

### #1: The formation of diamonds, unique creations of the Earth

*We are starting a new series on the diamond value chain, from the diamond formation to the ring on your finger. In this newsletter, we will present the essential first step: how are diamonds formed?*

Diamonds are a unique creation of the Earth. Their lasting legacy – they were formed deep within the Earth's crust roughly from 1 to 3 billion years ago – makes them an exceptional natural product.

Made out of pure carbon, their formation requires two important conditions: high temperature (around 1200° C) and high pressure. Under these two conditions only, carbon atoms will start to bond with each other and eventually grow large enough to produce crystals that we can see. Each crystal represents billions and billions of carbon atoms that together form a diamond.

Owing to their exceptional characteristics, diamonds represent beauty, eternity, strength, love and commitment.



## EFJ Members

**UFBJOP** - Union Française de la Bijouterie, Joaillerie, Orfèvrerie, des Pierres et des Perles (France)

[www.union-bjop.com](http://www.union-bjop.com)

**ARS NOBILIS** – Fédération Belge du Bijou et de la Montre (Belgium)

<http://www.arsnobilis.be>

**AORP** - Associação de Ourivesaria e Relojoaria de Portugal (Portugal)

<http://www.aorp.pt/>

**FEDERORAFI** - Federazione Nazionale Orafi Argentieri Gioiellieri Fabbrikanti (Italy)

<https://www.federorafifi.it>

**AWDC** - Antwerp World Diamond Centre (Belgium)

<https://www.awdc.be>



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