

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 9 November 2016: « The European jewellery sector has developed a unique know-how which is already highly regarded worldwide », outlined **Tokia Saïfi MEP** during the lunchtime debate « **Best practices and challenges of the European jewellery sector** ». An important economic sector in Europe, it is one of the beacons of the European creative industries.

Organised by the young and dynamic European Federation of Jewellery (EFJ), the event highlighted the best practices of the sector, and it held discussion on three key subjects: “Made In”, conflict minerals and limits for cash payments. “Today’s lunchtime debate foreshadowed other actions for a federation which will strengthen its role as a source of proposals in the European arena” assured **Bernadette Pinet Cuoq, President of the EFJ**.

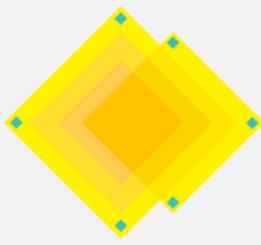
Mindful of improving the traceability of its products, **the European jewellery sector has urged the Member States to adopt the mandatory indication of origin**. **His Excellency Mr Giovanni Pugliese – Ambassador for the Permanent Representation of Italy to the European Union** – assured that the group of 11 countries led by Italy are continuing to work to find a compromise within the Council, a compromise which could take the form of a sectorial approach.

The adoption at the international level of measures aiming to respond to the challenge of conflict minerals has also been advocated by the EFJ, which expressed its concern regarding the mandatory system of due diligence of suppliers proposed by the European Parliament and to which the European Commission rallied. Such a system would greatly weaken the European players and notably would provide a competitive advantage to the numerous SMEs in third countries which manufacture jewellery and precious metals - all of which would not be subjected to the same obligation. Moreover, the EFJ has said that it is ready to contribute to the study which will be launched in December 2016 by the European Commission. The objective of the study is to evaluate the needs and expectations of the SMEs in the application of the new system of controls for the suppliers.

Furthermore, the EFJ has proved itself to be on the offense on the subject of **limits for cash payments**. Faced with a European Commission engaged in ongoing reflection, **the European sector has championed a harmonisation of limits across**. A harmonisation such as this would restore a level playing field between the economic actors of the different countries and would build trust amongst European consumers, as well as amongst non-Europeans who are today confronted by markedly different situations depending on the country.

Organised with the cooperation of the Brussels agency AliénorEU, the event gathered members of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission, and representatives of the Member States, as well as economic actors.





EUROPEAN FEDERATION of JEWELLERY

Founded in November 2013 with the goal of promoting expertise and best practices at the European level, the EFJ gathers the national professional organisations of France, Italy, Belgium, Spain and Portugal, as well as processors, traders and retailers.

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More information on:
<http://efjewellery.eu/>



LUNCH-DEBATE

**Best practices and challenges of the
European jewellery sector**

"Made in", conflict minerals, cash payments