



EUROPEAN  
FEDERATION  
of JEWELLERY



## COMMUNICATION

To the members of the national associations of the European Federation of Jewellery and to public authorities

Brussels, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019

### Entry into force of the new European customs code for synthetic diamonds

The European Federation of Jewellery (EFJ) welcomes the **publication of the new European customs code for synthetic diamonds**. This code, introduced in the European combined nomenclature (Chapter 71), will enter into force as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020<sup>1</sup>. It will be applied until 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022, when the HS6 customs code, which was recently adopted by the World Customs Organisation (WCO), will be applied at the European level.

The EFJ and its membership strived for the adoption of this new European customs code, which will facilitate the monitoring of synthetic diamond flows in Europe, thus allowing better compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

Although legitimate, synthetic diamonds fundamentally differ from natural diamonds. The EFJ therefore welcomes the acknowledgement of the difference between natural diamonds and synthetic diamonds by the European Commission through the new customs code. Given these fundamental differences, the EFJ deems it essential as well to legally oblige retailers to duly inform consumers about the nature of the product they are selling. The EFJ will therefore continue to advocate the establishment of a European legislation differentiating natural diamonds from synthetic diamonds at retail level in order to ensure consumer protection through full product disclosure.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1776 of 9 October 2019 amending Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff: [http://publications.europa.eu/resource/cellar/4fdaf64e-fc25-11e9-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0006.01/DOC\\_1](http://publications.europa.eu/resource/cellar/4fdaf64e-fc25-11e9-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0006.01/DOC_1)