

Stage Three Report

The first international meeting of Armenian jewellers in Basel. (Switzerland), April 26, 1998



One hundred business professionals from more than twenty countries participated in the Basel assembly of the Armenian Jewellers' Association.

After the opening remarks by Mr. Karen Nazarian, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the UN Office in Geneva, Mr. Gagik Yeghiazarian, the Head of the newly established Armenian Development Agency read the address of the President of Armenia, Robert Kocharian, to the participants. This was followed by a ceremony honouring Mr. Haik Arslanian, Mr. Vartkess Knadjian (both from Belgium) and Mr. Vahe Isnar (from Canada), with special awards and certificates signed by President Kocharian for their significant contributions toward the development of diamond cutting and jewellery manufacturing in Armenia.

The Assembly elected a board with and Executive Committee of 13 members representing Armenia, Australia, Canada, the CIS, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, the Pacific and the USA. Mr. Haik Arslanian (Honourary Consul of Armenia in Belgium) and Mr. Gagik Abrahamian (Member of the Armenian National Assembly), were elected Co-Chairmen of the Armenian Jewellers' Association, and Mr. Vartkess Knadjian was elected Secretary, Vartan Sirmakes as Treasurer. The Executive Committee granted the title of Honourary Chairman to Kevork (Djanik) Oskanian, from Belgium.

The principle mandate of the elected Board was to organise the second Yerevan assembly with as large participation as possible. The Board was to prepare a draft charter and the groundwork for the official launch of the organisation in Yerevan in the same year.

Vartkess Knadjian organised the Basel assembly and dinner which was sponsored by Vartan Sirmakes. Armenian Development Agency headed by Gagik Yeghiazarian and team members Nune Magoyan and Levon Galstyan supported the initiative from Armenia and contributed to its success.



2nd Board Meeting

Antwerp (Belgium), June 13-14, 1998.

Following the election of the Board of the Armenian Jewellers' Association in Basel in April 1998, the Second Board Meeting took place in Antwerp on June 13th and 14th.

His Excellency Vigen Tchitechian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the Benelux countries, NATO and E.U. welcomed the participants and stressed the strategic importance of the jewellery industry for the development of the Armenian economy.

The Board announced that it would invite Armenian jewellers from all over the world to an Assembly in Yerevan on October 3rd and 4th. During the Assembly participants will be familiarised with the aims of the Armenian Jewellers' Association and participating government representatives will outline their policies regarding this strategic sector. The Assembly is being organised by the Armenian Jewellers' Association with the help of the Armenian Development Agency.

The Armenian Jewellers' Association is to support participation at both the Las Vegas and Basel Fairs in the coming year promoting Armenian jewellery products.