



PRESS RELEASE

BV Schmuck und Uhren General Assembly 2020

The German Association of Jewellery and Watches reflects on the year 2019 at its regular general assembly. Together with invited guests of the association members enjoy talk about antitrust compliance in the luxury goods industry.

Pforzheim, 05.02.2020. Today, the general assembly of the German Association of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks & Supplying Industry (BVSU) was able to review a successful year 2019.

BVSU President **Uwe Staib** welcomed around 60 members of the association at the panorama room of the Sparkasse tower in Pforzheim. BVSU Director General **Dr. Guido Grohmann** reported to the participants about the diverse association activities in the past year 2019. In addition to reflecting on internal tasks, such as restructuring the staff, informing and advising members, and the tasks in the context of public relations work for the association, Grohmann particularly focused on past trade fairs in 2019 as well as the economic-political work of the association.

With regard to the 2019 trade fairs, he particularly highlighted Inhorgenta in February, Baselworld at the end of March, and the trade fairs in Hong Kong that take place in March, June and September. After the typhoon in September 2018 and the effects of the protest movements in Hong Kong last June and September, the Corona virus is yet another current problem on the agenda. With regard to Baselworld, Grohmann commended the commitment of the trade fair director and his team to revitalize what once was the largest trade fair in the industry, but he also called upon the Swiss industry as the true decision maker whether there will be a future Swiss signature trade fair in the future own country or not.

The association's representation of its members' interests was presented from a national and international perspective. At the beginning of 2019, the BVSU had been one of the first national associations to become an official member of the Responsible Jewellery Council in order to provide its members with even better support in their certification processes. At the national level - also through the membership of BVSU in the Federal Association of German Industries (BDI) - a variety of topics were dealt with.

A special focus was placed on the efforts of the association to create a clear distinction between diamonds and artificial reproductions, so-called synthetic or artificial diamonds, also on the legal level. In particular, BVSU demands a legal obligation of all market participants to correctly name the products in order to avoid deceiving customers, in the business environment as well as with regards to the end consumer.

Managing Director **Christine Köhle-Wichmann** reported on the financial year of BVSU's own subsidiary and service company, Deutsche Schmuck und Uhren GmbH. She also reflected on the 2019 Jeweller's Congress, which was successfully held in Pforzheim last October. Mrs. **Karina Ratzlaff** reported for the federal association of the German jewellery and silverware industry on the activities of the world jewellery association CIBJO.

In the late afternoon, other representatives from business and politics were invited to the public part of the general assembly in addition to the press. The BVSU presented the audience with **Dr. Axel Kallmayer**, one of the best-known antitrust lawyers in Germany. Kallmayer knew how to entertain his audience with his rather complex-sounding lecture named 'Antitrust Compliance in the luxury goods industry'. He captivated the listeners with many practical examples. The findings from the lecture were one of many discussion points at the subsequent get-together of the German jewelry and watch industry.

Bundesverband Schmuck und Uhren, Silberwaren und verwandte Industrien e.V.

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The German Association of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks & Supplying Industry (BVSU) was founded in Pforzheim in 1947. As a lobby group for over 170 predominantly medium-sized member companies, BVSU represents the interests of its members at a national, European and international level. BVSU is a member of the Federation of German Industries (BDI). It is responsible for coordinating the federal associations of the German jewellery and silverware industry. In this capacity it is also integrated in global efforts of the World Jewellery Confederation, CIBJO. BVSU represents the interests of the German watch and clock industry at a European level as a member of the European watchmaking associations EUROTempus and CPHE. BV Schmuck und Uhren is a member of the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC).