



One Year EU Textiles Strategy – Zooming in on circular design & export



OVERVIEW

Programme

- **Moderator:** Valeria Botta, ECOS
- **Opening remarks:** Jana Žůrková, RREUSE
- **Welcome:** Florian Marin, EESC member
- **Keynote speech:** Alice Kuhnke MEP, Greens/EFA
- **Round table: Export of used textiles and circular design of textiles**
 - Gael de Rotalier, European Commission, DG Environment
 - Lars Fogh Mortensen, EEA
 - Julia Bles, EuRIC
 - Mauro Scalia, Euratex
 - Emily Macintosh, EEB

CHALLENGES

- Need to change situation in textile industry
- Eco-design requirements in textile sector must take into consideration durability, recyclability, reparability and reusability of products
- Scale of recycling must provide enough volumes of textiles for the necessary fibre-to-fibre recycling technologies, and for these technologies to operate at scale
- Investments, as well as incentives for enterprises that are climate-neutral, are required for whole textile value chain
- Over-production
- Over-consumption
- Large volumes of new textiles are discharged by textile industry
- Exploitation of textile workers
- Transparency of data is needed in the sector
- Chemicals used in the process
- Very fragmented and complex value chain

KEY MESSAGES

- Almost one year has passed since the adoption of the EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles [COM\(2022\) 141 final](#). Ever increasing interest in the subject also proved by the number of participants (+/- 600) to recent [ECESP EU Circular Talks](#) on the subject.
- Urgent need to increase circularity in the textile sector:
 - 15 kilos textiles produced per person in Europe every year
 - EU export of used textiles has tripled the last two decades
 - textile collection rate: 30-35 % of total textile waste
- If problems in the textile industry were once attributed to lack of knowledge, and then the self-regulation concept was introduced as the solution, both concepts are now outdated. Now industry needs legislation, but, if capitalistic system and market economy are not discussed, in 10 years' time things will still be unchanged. Is market economy worth sacrificing the planet?
- Lots of good practices exist among SMEs, from which lessons can be learnt, but how can SMEs handle 16 EU regulations? With growing niches, we do not go too far...
- Global South is bearing the brunt of Global North over-production. World second-hand clothing trade is a sort of waste colonialism
- How can [ESPR](#) in practice address manufacturing stages, which have the biggest impact on environment?
- Need to go beyond sustainable materials which are discarded in landfills.
- How can [EPR](#) (providing funding and organisational system for separate collection and sourcing) be used to go beyond over-production and be really transformative? By setting fees and providing incentives to produce less, but also more information to the supply chain about production volume and using [EPR](#) to go beyond "pay to pollute"
- EU textiles exports have tripled in 10 years (80% of collected textile waste is exported as second-hand products to third countries (Africa and Asia) without traceability. What will happen in 2025, when all textile waste has to be separately collected in EU?
- [Consultation by EC on which products to prioritise for ecodesign](#)
- EC now considering long-neglected textile export issue, also on the basis of recent EEA's [briefing](#) and reports.
- Reuse – even at global level - is 70 times better than producing a new textile
- Reuse and recycling should be promoted locally within the EU. The remaining textiles that can be properly reused should be exported, after careful sorting. Clear definitions of "used" textiles and textile waste should be provided. Textile waste should be dealt with in the EU
- Legal clarity on which textile category (garments) to address should be prioritised
- Through [ESPR](#), e-commerce (ultra-fast fashion with limited liability of who's responsible for the product's compliance) is also regulated
- Textiles is the new plastics. Why not think about a Treaty on Textiles?