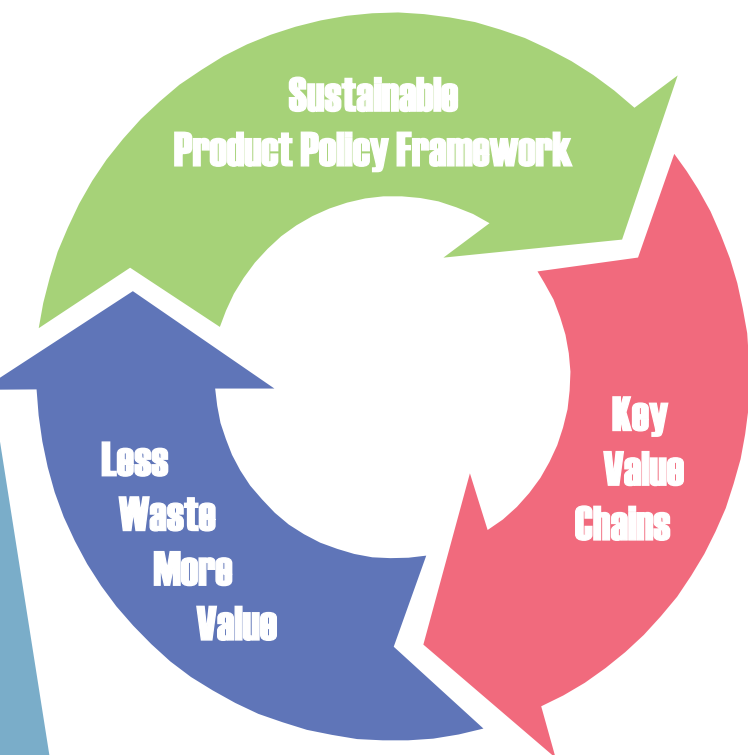# Sustainable and Circular Textiles

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Textiles within the Circular Economy Action Plan

Sustainable Product Policy Framework

Key Value Chains

Less Waste More Value

Make sustainable products the norm in the EU
Empower consumers and public buyers
Sustainable production processes

Electronics and ICT
Batteries and vehicles
Packaging
Plastics
Textiles
Construction and buildings
Food, water and nutrients

Reduce Waste
Reduce Waste Exports
Boost market for high quality and safe secondary raw materials

35 actions

Making circular economy work for people, regions and cities

Circular economy as a requisite for climate neutrality

Getting the Economics Right

Financial Markets

Investments and R&I

Global Level Playing Field

Monitoring

European Commission

EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles Need for action

European consumption of textiles has the **fourth highest impact** on the environment and climate change, after food, housing and mobility.
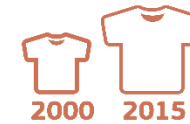
>1%

1% of material used to produce clothing is recycled into new clothing (globally)

11.3 kg

About 5.8 million tonnes of textiles are discarded every year, equivalent to 11.3 kg per person (EU)

Almost 9/10 Europeans (88%) think that clothing should be made to last longer

2000   2015

Textiles production doubled between 2000 and 2015 (globally)

Opportunities:

- ➤ Increase the EU textiles ecosystem's **resilience**

- ➤ Boost its attractiveness, creative and innovative potential

- ➤ Tap into new markets for **sustainable textiles**

- ➤ An average of 20 to 35 jobs are created for every 1.000 tonnes of textiles collected for re-use, such as selling them second-hand

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Road to 2030: the vision of the Strategy is based on circular and sustainable production and consumption patterns

➢ By 2030, all textile products placed on the EU market are:

- durable, repairable and recyclable

- to a great extent made of recycled fibres

- free of hazardous substances

- produced respecting social rights

➢ "Fast fashion is out of fashion" - consumers benefit longer from high quality textiles

➢ Profitable re-use and repair services are widely available

➢ In a competitive, resilient and innovative textile sector producers take responsibility for their products along the value chain

➢ Circular rather than throw-away clothes have become the norm, with sufficient capacities for recycling and minimal incineration and landfilling

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Key actions of the Strategy

1. **New design requirements for textiles** under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation

2. **Stopping the destruction** of unsold or returned textiles

3. Action to address the unintentional **release of microplastics** from synthetic textiles

4. **Clearer information** on textiles and a digital product passport

5. **Tackle greenwashing**

6. Mandatory **Extended Producer Responsibility** for textiles with eco-modulation of fees

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation and textiles I

Ecodesign requirements for textiles to be adopted as soon as possible after ESPR entry into force. Preparatory study by Commission Joint Research Centre is ongoing. Impact assessment will consider:

- Binding **performance and/or information** requirements including inter alia:
  - Durability, reusability, reparability
  - Fibre-to-fibre recyclability and mandatory recycled fibre content,
  - Minimising and track the presence of substances of concern
  - Mircoplastics release

  In addition to ESPR there will be a Commission communication on the unintentional release of microplastics in the environment tackling also microplastics from textiles

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation and textiles II

As a part of ESPR there will be:
- Mandatory criteria for green public procurement based on key sustainability aspects
- Setting of Information requirements
- Building up the Digital Product Passports for textiles

In addition to ESPR there will be a review of the Textile Labelling regulation

ESPR includes measures countering destruction of unsold consumer products (including textiles)

- Transparency obligation to publicly disclose the number of products discarded
- Possible prohibition on destruction, subject to targeted exemptions.
- Provisions on destruction are heavily debated by co-legislators, who might introduce a direct prohibition on destruction of unsold textiles.

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Tackling greenwashing on textile products

- Empowering consumers in the green transition
  - Providing consumers with **information at the point of sale** about a commercial guarantee of durability as well as information relevant to repair
  - **General environmental claims**, such as "green", "eco-friendly", "good for the environment", will be allowed only if underpinned by recognised excellence in environmental performance

- Directive on environmental claims
  - Contributing to fighting **greenwashing** and ensuring environmental claims and labels are substantiated, verified and well communicated
  - Enabling consumers to make informed purchasing decisions and promote sustainable consumption based on **reliable information**
  - Increase **credibility** of companies trading cross border in the internal market and support businesses that are making well-substantiated environmental claims by creating a level playing field to compete on

- Review of the **EU Ecolabel** criteria for textiles – awarding excellence (2024)

Extended Producer Responsibility and waste actions

Upcoming obligation to establish separate collection of textile waste by 2025

- Propose <u>harmonised EU extended producer responsibility rules</u> for textiles with eco-modulation of fees
  - notable share of contributions made to EPR schemes will be dedicated to <u>waste prevention</u> measures and preparing for reuse

- Textile waste from households and similar waste is <u>prepared for reuse</u>

- Dedicated study for the feasibility of <u>mandatory targets for preparing for re-use and recycling of textile waste</u> as part of the review of the EU waste legislation.

Enabling conditions

- **Transition Pathway** for the textiles ecosystem

- Driving **fast fashion out of fashion** & incentivising **circular business models**

- **A level playing field** and a **well-functioning internal market**

    - EU Product Compliance Network

    - Collaboration between customs and market surveillance authorities

    - EU Toolbox against counterfeiting

- Support **research, innovation and investments**

    - Horizon Europe, LIFE, Regional Policy, Recovery Plans, Sustainable Finance

- **Enhancing skills** for the green and digital transitions of the textiles sector

    - Pact for Skills for the textiles ecosystem (2021)

    - 2023 European Year of Skills

Global sustainable value chains

⚘ Action for promoting sustainable textiles value chains globally

  ⚘ global progress in international fora (G7, G20), GACERE and the United Nations Environmental Assembly.

  ⚘ decent work conditions promoted through outreach in bilateral relations and multilateral fora

  ⚘ horizontal due diligence obligation to identify, prevent, mitigate, bring to an end and account for actual and potential adverse impacts on human rights and the environment

  ⚘ legislative initiative to effectively prohibit the placing on the EU market of products made by forced labour, including forced child labour

⚘ Addressing the challenges related to halting the export of textile waste

  ⚘ export of textile waste to non-OECD countries only if managed sustainably

  ⚘ Work on EU level criteria to make a distinction between waste and certain second-hand textile products

RESET ⟳ TREND
#ReFashionNow

Why?

▶ to raise public awareness of the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles and its environmental, social, economic, health-related benefits; and illustrate sector's potential in saving water, energy and other resources and tackling pollution

▶ to engage citizens making fast fashion 'out of fashion'

When?

▶ Launch: January 2023

▶ End: April 15th

Who?

▶ 6 target countries: Belgium, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Romania, and Spain

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Transition Pathway for the Textiles Ecosystem

To contribute to the way forward and to set out concrete steps on how to achieve the Strategy's 2030 goals.

Policy report to be published
6 June 2023

It aims to:

- ✓ Accelerate the **digital** and **green** transitions and strengthen the **resilience** of the ecosystem

- ✓ Launch discussions with stakeholders through a **co-creation process**

- ✓ Identify what **specific actions and commitments** are needed

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Thank you!

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