



## Gearing up for more circular textiles – The vision of EuRIC Textiles



**Emmanuel KATRAKIS - Secretary General**  
ECOMONDO, Rimini – October 2021

# EURIC AT A GLANCE

The European Recycling Industries' Confederation brings together recycling federations from 20 EU and EFTA Member States and represents:

5,500+ companies including small and medium-sized enterprises

300,000 local jobs

Millions of tons of waste recycling every year (metals, paper, plastics, glass etc.)

An annual turnover of about €95 billion



# STREAMS COVERED

Ferrous and non ferrous metals  
(e.g., steel, aluminium, copper, etc.)



Tyres

Plastics (e.g., packaging, construction,  
engineering plastics, etc.)



End of life vehicles

Paper



Electrical and electronic waste

Textiles



Batteries recovery & fire prevention

# EuRIC TEXTILES

EuRIC Textiles Branch's main objectives are:

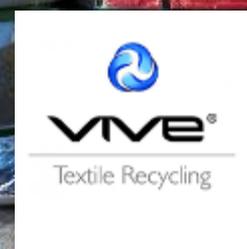
To **monitor and analyse** at EU level all legal, environmental, economic and technical issues relating to the collection, sorting, preparing for re-use, recycling, transporting and marketing of used textiles, shoes and accessories.

To ensure a **proper representation** of the European textile re-use and recycling sector to the European institutions and liaise with relevant private associations inside and outside the EU.

To provide **expert inputs on any EU policy and regulatory initiative** which could have an impact on the collection, sorting, preparing for re-use, recycling, transporting and marketing of used textiles, shoes and accessories.

To promote a **fit-for-purpose regulatory framework** which incentivizes the re-use and recycling of used textiles, shoes and accessories.

To **maintain a link** between the European national member federations, in strict observance of relevant legal requirements.





# Separate collection of textiles

## Article 11 (1) Waste Framework Directive

(...) Member States shall set up separate collection (...) by 1 January 2025, for textiles.



Handling & Sorting Specifications  
For re-use and recycling of used textiles



# THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL | 11 December 2019

**Green Deal is  
Europe's Man on  
the Moon Moment**



# THE NEW CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACTION PLAN | 11 March 2020

*Main priorities within the new CEAP for the recycling industry*



## TOP 5 PRIORITIES OF THE RECYCLING INDUSTRY FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2024

Realising the internal market for recycling to boost the circular economy and combat climate change



EuRIC AISBL - Recycling: Bridging circular economy & climate policy



## In preparation

## Roadmap

Feedback period

05 January 2021 - 02 February 2021

FEEDBACK: CLOSED

## Public consultation

Feedback period

12 May 2021 - 04 August 2021

Consultation period

Second quarter 2021

FEEDBACK: CLOSED

UPCOMING

## Commission adoption

Planned for

Third quarter 2021

### 3.5. Textiles

Textiles are the fourth highest-pressure category for the use of primary raw materials and water, after food, housing and transport, and fifth for GHG emissions<sup>30</sup>. It is estimated that less than 1% of all textiles worldwide are recycled into new textiles<sup>31</sup>. The EU textile sector, predominantly composed of SMEs, has started to recover after a long period of restructuring, while 60% by value of clothing in the EU is produced elsewhere.



In the light of the complexity of the textile value chain, to respond to these challenges the Commission will propose **a comprehensive EU Strategy for Textiles**, based on input from industry and other stakeholders. The strategy will aim at strengthening industrial competitiveness and innovation in the sector, boosting the EU market for sustainable and circular textiles, including the market for textile reuse, addressing fast fashion and driving new business models. This will be achieved by a comprehensive set of measures, including:

- > applying the **new sustainable product framework** as set out in section 2 to textiles, including developing **ecodesign measures** to ensure that textile products are fit for circularity, ensuring the uptake of secondary raw materials, tackling the presence of hazardous chemicals, and **empowering business and private consumers to choose sustainable textiles** and have **easy access to re-use and repair services**;
- > improving the business and regulatory environment for sustainable and circular textiles in the EU, in particular by providing **incentives and support to product-as-service models, circular materials and production processes**, and increasing transparency through **international cooperation**;
- > providing guidance to achieve **high levels of separate collection of textile waste**, which Member States have to ensure by 2025;
- > boosting the **sorting, re-use and recycling of textiles**, including through **innovation, encouraging industrial applications and regulatory measures** such as extended producer responsibility.



# Future EU Textiles Strategy

- Unified voice at EU level of the textiles re-use & recycling industry
- Securing end-markets in Europe & globally
- New players & business models
- Shaping policy-making to support European textiles' re-use & recycling operators (EPR, re-use & recycling/recycled content targets, specifications)
- R&D & Innovation in textiles sorting for re-use or fiber recovery (e.g. mechanical/chemical recycling)

- Setting **reuse and recycling targets**
  - In line with the waste hierarchy
- Creating a well-functioning **(circular) textile market**
  - EU Waste Shipment Regulation
  - Trade barriers
- Clear **legal status** for textiles prepared for reuse and recovered fibres (end-of-waste)
- **Targets for recycled content** to increase demand for high quality recycled fibres
  - NL: 25% in 2025

- Right framework for textiles
  - **Extended producer responsibility** (EPR)
  - Financing the **development** of collection, sorting and recycling capacities in the EU
  - Financing **innovation**
  - **Harmonised targets and definitions** at EU level
- Appropriate methodology
  - Involvement of all **expert actors** in the textile chain



# EPR – A tool to strengthen the re-use and recycling markets

**A tool to ensure that textile producers bear the financial responsibility for the management of the waste stage of the textile's life cycle.**

- In line with **the Waste Framework Directive**
- Scope: **post-consumer clothing & home textiles**
- Applicable to **producers and distributors** (incl. online)
- EPR contributions should support **re-use & recycling activities** as well as **R&D**
- EPR fees should be **eco-modulated** (encourage the design of more durable & resistant products and the use of recycled materials)
- Administration of EPR: **producers & representatives of the end-of-life phase**

# 7. European end-of-waste for textiles



## Preliminary list of waste and material streams to be considered as possible candidates for EU-wide EoW or by-product criteria:

- Plastics (one or several of the subcategories below to be selected):
  - o PET- Polyethylene terephthalate
  - o HDPE- High-density Polyethylene
  - o PE- Low-density polyethylene
  - o PVC- Polyvinyl chloride
  - o PP- Polypropylene
  - o PS- Polystyrene
  - o ABS- Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene
  - o PC- Polycarbonates
  - o PU- Polyurethane
  - o OTHER- Other plastics (e.g. acrylic, polylactic acid fibres etc.)
- **A specific textile waste stream, e.g.:**
  - o **Carpet waste**
    - Rubber (granulated/powder) from end-of-life tyres
    - Mineral Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste (concrete, bricks) for use as aggregate
    - Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) (specific stream after pre-treatment)
    - Biological materials (not covered by the Fertilising Products Regulation (EU) 2019/1009)
    - Paper
    - Slags (one or several of the subcategories below to be selected)
      - o Iron and steel slag
      - o Copper slags
        - Iron silicate
        - Bauxite residue (from alumina production)
        - Flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) gypsum and plasterboard
        - Mill scale waste (from steel production) – as by-product

**Publication was a success –  
Our Specs already gained traction!**

**RECYCLING**  
magazine

Trends, Analyses, Opinions  
Facts for the Recycling Industry

NEWS ▾ MATERIALS ▾ MAGAZINE ▾ SERVICES ▾ PUBLISHING HOUSE ▾

USED TEXTILES

## EuRIC specifications for textile handling and sorting

New specifications from EuRIC Textiles provide information on how to handle and sort used textiles for optimized re-use and recycling. The publication is available on the EuRIC website.

06.09.2021



Source: SOEX GROUP

## EuRIC publishes guidance for textiles industry

The European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC) has published a best practice guide for textiles collectors and sorters, which it says will help "achieve the highest percentage of re-use and recycling".



The guidance was published by EuRIC's Textiles Recycling Branch



EuRIC @EuRIC\_Recycling · Sep 7

At EuRIC Textiles, we feel it is important to have uniform and clear specifications describing how [#usedtextiles](#) should be handled to achieve the highest possible percentage of [#reuse](#) and [#recycling](#).

Have a look at our recommendations now [bit.ly/3hajxMC](https://bit.ly/3hajxMC)



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**Further elaborations needed on the recycling part?**

*“The non-reusable fractions shall primarily be sorted by requirement of the subsequent recycling process, for instance according to garment types such as woven or knits, colour restrictions of fibre composition.”*



Thank you for your attention!



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