



Joint Press Statement

European Textiles Ecosystem Welcomes EU Waste Directive, Calls For Harmonised Implementation

Brussels, 9 September 2025—The undersigned European business organisations represent the textile ecosystem, from manufacturing and design to retail, collection, sorting, reuse and recycling. Our members account for a significant part of the European economy and the EU apparel and footwear sector. Today's European Parliament vote on the revision of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) marks a decisive step towards establishing a harmonised framework for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for textiles across the EU.

The WFD offers the opportunity to make textile waste management effective via harmonised EPR rules across Member States. The signatory organisations call on the European Commission to ensure that these rules are harmonised across all Member States and applied equally to all operators. Only Commission leadership can guarantee a level playing field and avoid fragmentation of the Single Market.

To avoid duplication or confusion, the framework should include a harmonised list of products in scope, a consistent structure for calculating EPR fees and eco modulation, and a standardised reporting template. These measures will send a clear signal to economic operators and enable impact at scale”.

We particularly urge the Commission to start harmonisation already in 2025. The textile recycling value chain cannot afford a legislative gap lasting many years.

The European textile ecosystem emphasises that eco-modulation criteria must be science-based and aligned with Eco-design for Sustainable Product Regulation (ESPR) requirements once these are fully implemented. To avoid delays in driving circularity, we support the introduction of EU-based pragmatic interim criteria in the meantime, which can be refined as eco-design standards are adopted. Only evidence-based policymaking can deliver measures that support sustainability while preserving competitiveness.

Today's vote is an important milestone for Europe's circular economy agenda. The sector is committed to driving circularity and sustainability, but this must be underpinned by harmonised, evidence-based, and easy-to-implement rules designed and led by the European Commission. Only then can the WFD deliver real progress and fit into the Commission's competitiveness agenda.

—ENDS—

EBCA

[The European Branded Clothing Association \(EBCA\)](http://www.ebca-europe.org/) represents more than 75 well-known brands, gathered across 14 global companies. We envision a future where our sector contributes to shared prosperity and are supported by global standards that enhance sustainability and trade, creating a level playing field. Please visit our website at <http://www.ebca-europe.org/> for further information. Contact: secretariat@ebca-europe.org

EuroCommerce

[EuroCommerce](https://www.eurocommerce.eu/) is the principal European organisation representing the retail and wholesale sector. It embraces national associations in 28 countries and 5 million companies, including leading global players and many small businesses. Over a billion times a day, retailers and wholesalers distribute goods and provide an essential service to millions of business and individual customers. The sector generates 1 in 7 jobs, offering a varied career to 26 million Europeans, many of them young people. It also supports millions of further jobs throughout the supply chain, from small local suppliers to international businesses. EuroCommerce is the recognised European social partner for the retail and wholesale sector. Contact: Daniela Haiduc | Head of Communications, haiduc@eurocommerce.eu <https://www.eurocommerce.eu/>

Euratex

[EURATEX](http://euratex.eu), the European Apparel and Textile Confederation, represents the interests of the European textile and clothing industry at the level of the EU institutions. As the voice of the European industry, EURATEX aims to create favorable environment within the European Union for manufacturing of textile and clothing products. Textile and apparel manufacturing is an essential pillar of local economy across the EU regions. EURATEX represents 200,000 companies with a turnover of €170 billion, employing 1.3 million workers. Contact: info@euratex.eu

EuRIC

[The European Recycling Industries' Confederation \(EuRIC\)](http://euric.org) is the umbrella organisation for the recycling industries in Europe. Through its 75 members from 23 European countries, EuRIC represents more than 5,500 large companies and SMEs involved in the recycling and trade of various resource streams. They represent a contribution of 95 billion EUR to the EU economy and 300,000 green and local jobs. By turning waste into resources, recycling reintroduces valuable materials into value chains over and over again. By bridging circularity and climate neutrality, recyclers are pioneers in leading Europe's industrial transition. Contact: info@euric.org

FESI

Founded in 1960 [FESI](http://fesi-sport.org), the Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry, is the unique pre-competitive platform representing the interests of the sporting goods industry in Europe, advancing its members' priorities and promoting initiatives that benefit the sector, EU citizens and the society as a whole. FESI represents the interests of approximately 1.800 sporting goods manufacturers (85% of the European market) through its National Sporting Goods Industry Federations and its directly affiliated member companies. 70-75% of FESI's membership is made up of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises. In total, the European Sporting Goods Industry employs over 700.000 EU citizens and has an annual turnover of some 81 billion euros. Contact: info@fesi-sport.org

Policy Hub

The [Policy Hub - Circularity for Apparel and Footwear](#) brings together the different perspectives of the global textile and footwear value chain to foster technical conversations on the sector's transition towards sustainability and circularity. It unites over 700 stakeholders from the apparel and footwear sectors, including brands, retailers, manufacturers, service providers, and other key stakeholders in the textile value chain. It also leverages the technical expertise and insights of its members, supported by our Founding Partners—Cascade, Global Fashion Agenda (GFA), and the Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI)—alongside our Advisory Group, which includes Textile Exchange, Fashion for Good, the Social & Labor Convergence Program (SLCP), the Fair Labor Association (FLA), the Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA) and Better Cotton.