The European Environment Agency (EEA)

EU mandate to monitor Europe’s environment and climate in a global context

I am responsible for our work with textiles, plastics and consumption in a circular economy
1. EU textiles consumption have on average the fourth largest environmental impacts

2. Sneak preview into EU exports of used textiles

3. EU Strategy on Sustainable and Circular Textiles
High volumes of textiles in the EU

Annual consumption of 14.8 kg per person in the EU
Source: EEA and ETC/CE
Global fiber demand

Global fiberefterspørgsel, 1940-2018, mio. ton om året

Source: CIRFS (2020)
European consumption of textiles has the fourth highest impact on the environment and climate change, after food, housing and mobility.

It is one of the top three pressures on water and land use, and the top five in terms of raw material use and greenhouse gas emissions.
Textiles have on average the fourth highest impacts.

The use of primary raw materials in the upstream supply chains of EU-27 household consumption domains in 2020 (million t)

- Food
- Housing (water, heating and electricity)
- Transport and mobility
- Furnishings and household goods
- Textiles - 391 kg/person - 20% in EU
- Health
- Recreation and culture
- Restaurants and hotels
- Beverages
- Communication
- Education
- Miscellaneous

Source: EEA and ETC/CE
Textiles have on average the fourth highest impacts

Water use in the upstream supply chains of EU-27 household consumption domains in 2020 (million m³)

- 9 m³ per person
- Third highest after food and recreation

Source: EEA and ETC/CE
Ranking of fibres in different impact categories

Source: EEA and ETC/CE, forthcoming
Points

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EU-28 Exports of used textiles to the rest of the world

Note: Combined numbers for both 6309 and 6310. The numbers are both for million tonnes and million euros

Source: Compilation based on data from UN Comtrade, accessed 02.10.2022. Forthcoming
Total export of used textiles by region: 2000, 2010, 2019

Note: Percentage of the world total reported exports. ‘Europe’ refers to countries within the continent of Europe, but that are not part of the EU.

Source: Compilation based on data from UN Comtrade, accessed 02.10.2022. Forthcoming
Note: UK is excluded to focus on current EU countries.
Source: Compilation based on data from UN Comtrade, accessed 02.10.2022. Forthcoming
EU exports of used textiles to other regions in percentage

Source: Compilation based on data from UN Comtrade, accessed 02.10.2022. Forthcoming
EU exports of used textiles to ROW, 2019

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EU Commission textiles vision for 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
Elements in the EU textiles strategy

- Set **design requirements for textiles** to make them last longer, easier to repair and recycle, as well as requirements on minimum recycled content.

- Introduce clearer information and a **Digital Product Passport**

- **Tackle greenwashing** to empower consumers and raise awareness about sustainable fashion.

- Reverse **overproduction and overconsumption**, and discourage the destruction of unsold or returned textiles.

- Revised **EU Eco-design Directive** with mandatory design requirements for textiles.

- **Mandatory digital product passport** for textiles.

- Commercial **guarantee of durability** as well as information relevant to repair.

- Transparency obligation and bans on the destruction of unsold products, including as appropriate, unsold or returned textiles.
Elements in the EU textiles strategy

Propose mandatory **Extended Producer Responsibility** for textiles with eco-modulation of fees

Address the **unintentional release of microplastics** from synthetic textiles

Restrict the **export of textile waste** and promote sustainable textiles globally

Incentivise **circular business models**, including reuse and repair sectors

Encourage companies and Member States to **support the objectives** of the Strategy

With **revision of waste framework directive** in 2023

**Binding design requirements** and further proposals in July 2022

The EU will pursue **global progress** towards more sustainable and circular textiles in international fora

Facilitate the **scaling up** reuse, repair and other new circular business models in the textiles sector
Thank you