



Textile retail and wholesale

Paving the way towards circular and sustainable textiles and apparel

Introduction

Textiles and apparel are recognised by the European Commission as an essential ecosystem for Europe's digital and sustainability transition. This has been reflected in the European Green Deal, the Economic Recovery Strategy and the EU Strategy for Sustainable Textiles, leading to the release of a Transition Pathway for the textiles industry, in July 2023.

The Sustainable Textiles and Apparel Retail and Wholesale (STAR) initiative is the united voice for the distribution sector, an important part of the textiles supply chain. The sector comprises 570.000 retail and wholesale companies,

providing 2.4 million jobs in the EU. The companies generate over €370 billion turnover and €86 billion added value to the EU economy¹.

In line with the EU Green Deal objectives, STAR works and advocates to support the development of a more circular economy. We encourage the EU to maintain its course and commitment to the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles. To support these efforts towards the green and digital transitions, we need to help build a resilient, sustainable and competitive textile retail & wholesale sector.

We therefore call upon the EU Institutions and member states to:

1. Support the **competitiveness** of the textile sector through **safeguarding & strengthening** the EU **single market** by
 - **Ensuring harmonisation** – focusing on the implementation & enforcement of current proposals and the need for clear EU guidelines.
 - **Strengthening the single market** for competitiveness.
2. Reinforce **enablers** for circular economy by
 - **Supporting innovation** in the textile sector (through sorting, preparation for recycling & recycling capacities), and **upskilling** and **reskilling** to support industrial resilience.
 - **Developing the market** for **secondary raw materials**.
3. Ensure that the EU supports **open & sustainable trade** and sector transformation globally by
 - **Promoting ambitious Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)**.
 - **Fostering the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP)** as an engine for growth and economic development.
 - **Aligning with international standards** and other jurisdictions.

¹ Eurostat Structural Business Statistics (2021, EU27)



