



European
Commission

HELSINKI CHEMICAL FORUM

PANEL 5 *Spotlight on textiles*

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Chemicals in textiles

The textile sector is a resource-intensive sector with important climate and environmental impacts.

Of more than 2,400 chemical substances identified to be used in the production of textile articles*

- 350 identified hazardous properties:
- 10 % possible risk to human health
- 5 % possible risk to the environment

*Hazardous chemical substances in textiles=Swedish Chemical Agency-2016

Textiles and chemicals

Achievements

CMRs restriction

Everyday clothing and related accessories, textiles and footwear, both EU-made and imported, are safer whichever EU country consumers might shop in.

Substances

Azodyes and carcinogenic aromatic amines, Impurities, mainly PAHs, Metals: arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead and their compounds, Organic compounds: formaldehyde, chlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons, benzene, phthalates, quinolone and polar aprotic solvents (NMP, DMAC, DMF)

Textiles and chemicals

Achievements (2)

Process

- Extensive discussions
- Transparent
- Stakeholders involvement
- Restriction implementable and enforceable

 *Lessons learnt*



EU Strategy on Sustainable Textiles

The European Green Deal, the Circular Economy Action Plan and the Industrial Strategy identified textiles as a priority sector to help the EU shift to a climate-neutral, circular economy where products are designed to be more durable, reusable, repairable, recyclable and energy-efficient.

The strategy aims to

to set a comprehensive framework to create conditions and incentives to boost the competitiveness, sustainability and resilience of the EU textile sector.

EU Strategy on Sustainable Textiles

HOW

actions along the whole value chain:

- supporting technologies, including through digitalisation, related to innovative textiles, manufacturing and recycling processes
- promoting more sustainable production processes
- improving design for sustainability under the **Sustainable Products Initiative**
- extended producer responsibility in promoting sustainable textiles and treatment of **textile waste**

Study on textile recycling technology – on going



EU Strategy on Sustainable Textiles*

European Commission's Communication
adoption foreseen end of 2021.

Roadmap on the "have your say" published for stakeholders' comments from 5 January to 2 February 2021. 229 feedbacks received.

Next Steps: 12 weeks Open public consultation to be launched soon.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12822-EU-strategy-for-sustainable-textiles>

Conclusions

Thank you

For further information
please visit:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/chemicals/reach/>
- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/index_en.htm
- <https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/reach/restriction>



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