



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.9.2022  
C(2022) 6715 final*

*Mr Ion-Marcel CIOLACU  
President of the  
Camera Deputaților  
Palace of the Parliament  
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5  
RO – 050563 BUCHAREST*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles {COM(2022) 141 final}.*

*This strategy lays down a comprehensive framework to address the negative environmental and social impacts of the textile sector while ensuring its sustainable recovery, resilience and digitalisation. The strategy is part of a broader package of initiatives adopted on 30 March 2022 to continue supporting the transition to a circular economy. The strategy fulfils the commitments announced in the European Green Deal<sup>1</sup>, the New Circular Economy Action Plan for a competitive and clean Europe<sup>2</sup> and the updated New Industrial Strategy on ‘Building a stronger Single Market for Europe’s recovery’<sup>3</sup>.*

*The strategy puts forward a vision in line with which by 2030 textiles placed on the European Union market should be long-lived and recyclable, made of recycled fibres, free of hazardous substances and produced in respect of social rights and the environment. Furthermore, consumers should benefit longer from high-quality textiles and from widely available services for re-use and repair. The strategy identifies actions that address the entire lifecycle of textile products, promote a shift from fast fashion to sustainable fashion, and aim at increasing recycling and reducing incineration and landfilling of textiles to the minimum. It proposes initiatives to improve design, empower consumers, discourage the destruction of unsold or returned textiles, and ensure that producers take responsibility along the value chain, including when products become waste.*

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2019) 640 final.

<sup>2</sup> COM(2020) 98 final.

<sup>3</sup> COM(2021) 350 final.

*The Commission is pleased that the Camera Deputaților shares the view that action to reduce the impacts of the sector is necessary. In response to the more technical comments in the Opinion, the Commission would like to refer to the attached annex.*

*The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Virginijus Sinkevičius  
Member of the Commission*

## Annex

*The Commission has carefully considered each of the issues raised by the Camera Deputaţilor in its Opinion and is pleased to offer the following clarifications.*

*As regards the issue of cooperation along the value chain, the Commission would like to underline that the recently adopted transition pathway for the textiles ecosystem<sup>4</sup> launches a co-creation process for the various industry segments to collaborate, exchange views and suggest new ways and initiatives to attain the double transition to a green and digital future. This process should result in an agreed vision for the ecosystem and specific pledges, possibly on circularity and circular business models, actions to strengthen sustainable competitiveness, digitalisation and resilience, and identification of specific investments needed for the twin transition. This collaborative tool can serve as a discussion forum in anticipation of actions on sustainable design.*

*In addition, the Commission would like to point out that several initiatives and programmes – such as the New European Bauhaus initiative, Horizon Europe, LIFE, the European Regional Development Fund, the Digital Europe Programme, the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs, and the Recovery and Resilience Facility – are available to provide financing and support research and innovation, including in functional textiles. The Commission is also working to foster the uptake of skill in the sector, including traditional technologies and crafts through the Pact for Skills<sup>5</sup> and in the context of the abovementioned transition pathway.*

*As regards the monitoring of market trends, the revised Market Surveillance Regulation (2019/1020) already provides for a regulatory framework and tools to ensure market surveillance, in particular through the recently introduced EU Product Compliance Network. In addition, the Digital Product Passport to be developed for textiles – as part of the implementation of the proposed Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation<sup>6</sup> – should facilitate the monitoring of compliance.*

*Concerning the issues raised on the management of textile waste, the Commission agrees that this is a critical element to ensure the sustainability of textiles. In this context, the Commission will consider how to harmonise European Union extended producer responsibility rules for textiles with eco-modulation of fees, as part of the forthcoming revision of the Waste Framework Directive in 2023. The key objective will be to create an economy for collection, sorting, reuse, preparation for reuse and recycling, as well as incentives for producers and brands to ensure that their products are designed in respect of circularity principles.*

*The Commission will also consider requiring that separately collected textile waste from households and similar waste is prepared for reuse as a necessary first step, in order to prevent that textile waste that can be prepared for re-use is sent to disposal, energy recovery or recycling.*

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<sup>4</sup> SWD(2022) 105 final.

<sup>5</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1517&langId=en>

<sup>6</sup> COM(2022) 142 final.

*At the same time, the Commission will closely monitor the developments in textile waste generation, composition and treatment. The Commission has recently launched a dedicated study to assessing the feasibility of setting targets for preparing for the re-use and recycling of textile waste. This study will also feed into a later, larger, review of the Waste Framework Directive. Therefore, the Commission highly appreciates the recommendations that were provided.*

*Regarding the export of textile waste, it is important to underline that under the recent Commission proposal for new European Union rules on the shipment of waste, the export of textile waste to countries that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development would be allowed only under the condition that such countries notify the Commission of their willingness to import specific types of waste and demonstrate their ability to manage it sustainably.*

*Finally, on the point made by the Camera Deputaților on the production of textiles fit for recycling, the Commission would like to recall that recyclability is one of the product features that could be considered when setting eco-design requirements under the implementation of the proposed Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation<sup>7</sup>.*

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<sup>7</sup> COM(2022) 142 final.