EU policy regarding textile waste

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Textiles in the EU

• Textile and clothing industry in the EU
  ➔ Employs 1.7 million people in the EU and generates a turnover of EU 166 billion

• Wide sustainability aspects
  ➔ Production
  ➔ Use phase
  ➔ End-of-life / after use

• Increased consumption

• Low rate of recycled content
Used textiles in the EU

- Limited data available
- Separate collection that facilitates
  - re-use
  - high-quality recycling
- Collection rates vary significantly within the EU
Textile waste prevention and treatment

- **Reuse**
  - Domestic reuse markets in Europe are limited to the top 10-20% in quality of used textiles.

- **Recycling of textiles is limited**
  - Sorting
  - Blended fibres
  - Legacy issues
  - Mechanical / chemical recycling
Source: Circular Flanders / OVAM (Public Waste Agency of Flanders)
EU waste legislation
The Waste Hierarchy

- Prevention
- Preparing for re-use
- Recycling
- Other Recovery
- Disposal

Products, materials and substances that are not waste
The revised WFD

- Recycling targets for *municipal waste* and *packaging waste*
- *Landfill diversion targets* for municipal waste
- *Extended separate collection for municipal waste*: MS to ensure separate collection of at least paper, metal, plastic, glass, bio-waste (by end 2023), hazardous household waste and *textiles (by end 2024)*
- Minimum requirements for *EPR schemes*
Waste Prevention

MS shall take measures to prevent waste generation, incl.:

- Encourage the re-use of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and re-use activities, including in particular for […] textiles […]
- Promote sustainable production + consumption models
- Promote reuse and repair […]
- MS shall develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering
Revisions & Follow-up

- Art. 11 (1) requires Member States to set up separate collection at least for paper, metal, plastic and glass, and, by 1 January 2025, for textiles.
- Art. 11 (6), states that, by 31 December 2024, the Commission shall consider the setting of preparing for re-use and recycling targets for a.o. textile waste.
Revisions & Follow-up

- Commission to establish a common methodology to report on re-use of products
- By the end of 2024, Commission shall consider the feasibility of measures to encourage the re-use of products
Guidance on separate collection

- Ongoing study to support the Commission in establishing guidelines for separate collection of waste
- Plastic waste, bio-waste, **textile waste**, hazardous household waste
EPR

- Ongoing study to support preparation of the Commission's guidance on the implementation of the general minimum requirements for extended producer responsibility schemes set out in Article 8a of the revised WFD
“I will propose a European Green Deal in my first 100 days in office.”

“I will propose a New Circular Economy Action Plan focusing on sustainable resource use, especially in resource-intensive and high-impact sectors such as textiles and construction.”
Source: Circular Flanders / OVAM (Public Waste Agency of Flanders)
Learn more about EU policy on the circular economy and waste:


ec.europa.eu/environment/waste