

W C E F 2 0 1 9

SIDE SESSION

Closing the Loop in Textiles

– How to boost more sustainable and circular textiles value chain

Side Session at World Circular Economy Forum WCEF 2019

Monday, the 3rd June at 9.30 to 11.00 a.m.

Finlandia Hall, Veranda 2, Helsinki, Finland

Short description and aim of the session: The aim of the session is to present, discuss and learn from concrete examples of better policies, new business models and other initiatives to help in achieving a more sustainable and circular textiles value chain. The session will identify recommendation and elements that will bring sustainability and circularity forward, from a policy and from a business perspective, and highlight next steps of a systems approach to close the loop in textiles.

Overview and background: The textile industry has grown to become one of the largest in the world, and its harmful environmental and social impacts have grown, as well. For instance, a total of greenhouse gas emissions from textile production amount up to 1.2 billion tonnes annually, which is more than generated by all international flights and maritime shipping combined. In addition, around half a million tonnes of plastic microfibres end up in the ocean annually due to the washing of plastic-based textiles.

The challenge we face today is that the textiles system still operates in an almost entirely linear way. It is estimated that more than USD 500 billion in value is lost every year due to underutilised clothing and a lack of recycling. Clothes are used for only a short time, after which 75 % of them is sent to landfills or incinerated. Only around 13% of the material input is recycled for cascading use to other industries, mainly to use in lower-value applications. The textile sector produces around 53 million tonnes of clothing fibres each year of which over 97% is virgin feedstock, and more than half of them are plastic-based fibres made of oil (63%). The cycle of fashion has sped up remarkably and has grown in volumes, primarily due to the phenomenon of “fast fashion”.¹

Closing the loop in textiles requires changes in the entire value chain and the mentality of fashion. All decisions made concerning product design, material choices, production technologies and facilities management, sustainable lifestyles, repairing, reusing and recycling practices have an impact on the potential and possibilities of circularity in the textile economy. Changes towards a more sustainable and circular textile value chain are needed in **upstream (design and production), midstream (consumption and reuse) and downstream (disposal and recycling)** phases of the value chain.

Programme

- 9.30 – 9.35 **Welcoming words and introduction of the session**
Ms. Elisa Tonda, Head of Consumption and Production Unit, UN Environment (moderator)
- 9.35 – 9.50 **Textiles – An opportunity for circularity**
Mr. Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director General for the Environment, European Commission
- 9.50 – 9.55 **New Textile Economy – What, why and how?**
Ms. Eline Boon, Ellen MacArthur Foundation

¹ The information on textiles is based on Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017): A new textiles economy: Redesigning fashion’s future.

10.00 – 10.05 **Introduction to roundtables on how to boost the transition towards a more sustainable and circular textiles value chain**

Introduction to Roundtable 1 - new business models

- Mr. Jouni Nissinen EEB President (Finnish Association for Nature Conservation FANC)

Introduction to Roundtable 2 - consumer information and sustainable lifestyles:

- Ms. Kiti Gjerstad, Senior advisor, Norwegian Consumer Council

Introduction to Roundtable 3 - Policy action and instruments:

- Ms. Sarianne Tikkanen, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Environment, Finland

Introduction to Roundtable 4- Implications for a global perspective:

- Ms. Elisabeth Duerr, Head, Initiative Resource Efficiency and Climate Action, GIZ

10.05-10.45 **Parallel roundtable discussions**

Roundtable 1: new business models

Moderator and Rapporteur: Mr. Jouni Nissinen, EEB President (FANC)

Note taker: Ms. Satumaija Mäki, Sustainability Adviser, Finnish Textile and Fashion

The roundtable 1 will focus on new business models, recycling and using recycled materials, product design and durability.

Guiding question: What are the new eco-innovative business models, and how can they be scaled up to support sustainability and circularity in the fashion industry?

Planned interventions

- Mr. Jonas Eder-Hansen, Global Fashion Agenda
- Ms. Noora Alhainen, Pure Waste Textiles, Finland
- Ms. Elli Ojala, Corporate Responsibility Manager, Finlayson, Finland
- Ms. Reet Aus, PhD, founding partner at Upmade

Roundtable 2: consumer information and sustainable lifestyles

Moderator& Rapporteur: Ms. Kiti Gjerstad, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Consumer Council

Note taker: Ms. Pirjo Heikkilä, Project Manager, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

The roundtable 2 will focus on solutions showcasing how consumer information and sustainable lifestyles can support a transition to circular textiles value chain

Guiding question: what information should be included on consumer information and lifestyles campaigns? Which are the tools to ensure all partners in the chain, in particular consumers, are adequately informed? How to encourage consumers from fast fashion to more sustainable and circular alternatives and lifestyles within textiles?

Planned interventions

- Mr. Michael Kuhndt, Executive Director, Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production CSCP
- Ms. Emmi Malmström, Co-founder, Vaaterekki, Finland (renting of clothes)
- Mr. Lauri Hilliaho, Entrepreneur, Alpa, Finland (durable and ethical alpa clothes with repair and second hand services)

Roundtable 3: Policy action and instruments

Moderator: Ms. Sarianne Tikkanen, Senior Specialist, Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Note Taker and Rapporteur: Mr. Llorenç Milà i Canals, Head of the Secretariat, UNEP

The roundtable 3 will focus on policies and instruments that provide a legal framework and incentives to a circular textiles value chain.

Guiding question: What are the policy tools and instruments seen as successful to transform the textiles value chain into a sustainable and circular one? How to address especially fast fashion, prolong lifetime of clothes and other textiles, and minimize textile waste? How to encourage both designers, producers and consumer towards more sustainable textile chains?

Planned interventions:

- Mr. Arthur ten Wolde, Ecopreneurs
- Ms. Sandra Onwijn, Ministry of the Environment and Infrastructure, the Netherlands
- Ms. Kirsi Niinimäki, Associate Professor in Design, Fashion/Textile Futures, Aalto University

Roundtable 4 on Implications from a global perspective

Moderator: Ms. Elisabeth Duerr, Head, Initiative Resource Efficiency and Climate Action, GIZ

Rapporteur: Ms. Devinah Milenge Uwella, African Development Bank

Note taker: Ms. Sonja Gustafsson, Specialist in EU Affairs, Ministry of the Environment

The roundtable 4 will focus on the implications of sustainability and circularity in the complex global value chain of textiles.

Guiding question: the value chain of textiles is global and complex. What are the challenges posed to developing countries, and foreseen solutions?

Planned interventions:

- Ms. Edna Himes, Directora de Nuevos Negocios, Directex/Circular Solutions, Mexico
- Ms. Shalini Sharma, Global Institute for Circular Economy and Sustainable Development Goals., India

10.40 – 10.50 Plenary: Report back from roundtables.

Rapporteurs from each roundtable will share briefly the main ideas and actions highlighted in the discussions.

10.50 – 10.55 Comment speech: suggested policies for a sustainable and circular textiles sector

Mr. Peter Borkey, Principal Administrator, OECD

10.55 – 11.00 Conclusion of the event by the moderator

Ms. Elisa Tonda, Head of Consumption and Production Unit, UN Environment (moderator)

11.00 – 11.10 Sustainable Fashion Catwalk

Alpa, Andiata, Anna Ruohonen, Globe Hope, Makia, Pure Waste Textiles, Reet Aus Upmade