

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): the missing policy link for responsible textile value chains

Theme: Post-consumer textile value chain in circular economy

Frank Hopstaken

February 12, 2020, OECD, Paris

SYMPANY
GEEF GOED DOOR

FFact

strategy &
implementation

1 Problem definition

- Private sector takes no responsibility for recycling post-consumer textiles
- Severe risks in operational textile recycling

2 Policy solution

- Allocate responsibility - also for low value post-consumer textiles



3 EPR as instrument: lessons learnt, options, 7 principles



4 EPR for textiles: the missing link



No responsibility of private sector (textile industry) up to now

- Revision of the **Waste Directive (2008/98/EC)**, the ‘waste package’ (2018)
 - 65% reuse or recycling of municipal waste by 2035
 - separate collection of textiles from households by 2025
 - encourage re-use and repair in particular for textiles
 - prepare re-use and recycling targets for textile waste before 2025
 - consider end of waste criteria for textiles
- No coherent actions of the textile industry
 - Eco-TLC in France, especially to enhance collection of textiles
 - intake of used textiles by shops (e.g. H&M)
 - starting branding of recycled textile content (e.g. jeans)



The Economist: Hanging by a thread

Panipat, the global centre for recycling textiles, is fading
The industry's decline is a missed opportunity for India



India buys a large part of global used textiles

- recycling industry still exists
- inland demand for r-yarn is decreasing
- virgin resources compete on price
- alternatives? support?



It is still possible to enhance the (existing) recycling industry and produce better recycled yarn under GRS certified conditions.



Allocate responsibility **for recycling - also for the low value textile part**

- EU mentions separate textile collection and also targets for recycling
- Focus on recycling as a first step to circular use of textiles is needed
- An increasing part of used textiles is not rewearable
 - more waste content due to separate collection targets (and systems)
 - quality of collected textiles decreases
 - cyclical demand for used textiles

The recycling of - the low value part of - used textiles
needs (financial) support!



Most EU member states have experience with Extended Producer Responsibility

- Article 8a of the Waste Directive gives **minimum requirements for schemes**
- Implementation before January 5, 2023
- EPR is a mature instrument to enable a circular economy with focus on the re-use, prevention, recycling and other recovery of waste
- Are lessons from other resources (packaging, e-waste, batteries) useable for a framework (scheme) for used textiles?
- Lessons from Eco-TLC, the French scheme, since 2008?



**EPR as a
solution?**

Can EPR provide **the missing link** in the textile value chain?

- NO, if the focus is primarily on the collection of used textiles (Eco-TLC)
- NO, if the focus is a reaction to fixing fashion
- PERHAPS, if the minimum requirements are adopted
- YES, if all stakeholders are committed to go beyond the minimum on social standards and recycled content



A global chain needs global incentives

7 Principles that must be incorporated in an EPR scheme (for textiles)

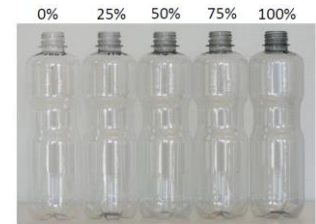
1. Consistent **policy** for a long term (15 years and to all stakeholders)
2. Realistic and dedicated **targets** (with a monitoring protocol and incentives for circularity, e.g. recycled content and labelling)
3. **Producers** in the driver seat (with tools and no hesitation)
4. Clear **roles** of stakeholders (supervised by government)
5. Crystal clear **rules** for operation (reporting, financing, social standards)
6. **Robust** operating organisation (using existing infrastructure)
7. Commitment and support by **society** (accepted goals, clear communication, enforcement)



EPR scheme can be the missing link if conditions are implemented that



- Post-consumer textiles are traced from collection to recycling
- Recycling produces fibres and yarns of specified quality (social, sustainable, circular standard)
- Recycled content is mandatory (target, like for PET/plastics)
- Incentives for textiles with recycled content (fee)



calls for a EU Textiles Strategy based on EPR

European Recycling Industries Confederation, textiles branch, December 18, 2019

Post-consumer fibres have to become a yarn in demand.

The textile production value chain and the post-consumer value chain
are still disconnected.

The connection is a prerequisite for a truly circular textile value chain.

EPR is a missing policy link, so let's start.

Together we make sustainability visible

www.ffact.nl
info@ffact.nl

+31 15 257 6384
+31 6 5383 2456

FFact Mcs B.V.
Het Slot 9
2622 KH Delft

www.sympany.nl
info@sympany.nl

+31 30 657 0009
+31 6 4937 5698

Sympany
Techniekweg 22
3542 DT Utrecht

SYMPANY
GEEF GOED DOOR

FFact

strategy &
implementation