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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: flash report high-level roundtable sustainable textiles with the Commissioner 25 January 2022

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Subject: flash report high-level roundtable sustainable textiles with the Commissioner

Dear all,

Please find below a flash report from the high level meeting that took place this morning on sustainable textiles. Don't hesitate to let us know if you have any question. Thanks [REDACTED]

Flash report - High-level roundtable discussion on sustainable textiles, hosted by Commissioner Sinkevičius

This morning Commissioner Sinkevičius hosted a roundtable with CEOs of some of the most representative companies of the textile/fashion sector. Three short presentations setting the scene were delivered by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Euratex, [REDACTED] Ellen

MacArthur Foundation. They brought forward the need for a regulatory framework, funding and creating consumer demand as well as the opportunity

of incentivising circular business models such as resale, rental, repair to enable decoupling revenue from resource use.

The discussion with the CEOs brought about a series of elements that are relevant for the sector and for the future development of our policies on textiles and circular economy. Among them, it's worth mentioning:

1. Definition of circularity is necessary. Without it, there is a risk of increased **greenwashing** by companies and placing on the market unreliable products' claims.
2. There is a need for **science-based targets**, specifically to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.
3. A comprehensive **policy framework with EU harmonized legislation** was also highlighted as key in order to avoid proliferation of national legislations (for instance concerning collection and intra-EU shipments of waste, Extended Producer Responsibility). Design for purpose (**durability and recyclability**), **carbon footprint** and harmonized assessment methodology for toxic free value chains are important. Legislation should be also **realistic** and implementable. Specifically **PEF** can provide a single methodology, common rules for all and transparency for customers. It was highlighted that, when addressing mandatory **recycled content**, the purpose should be to close the loop and ensure circularity from textiles to textiles. The **digital product passport** should ensure that data is open and accessible as to not create closed systems, and that the information is reliable and verified, since experiences currently show that for instance product's content declaration is in some cases not accurate.
4. The **competitiveness** of EU textile industry needs to be supported. There is the need for a **level-playing field**, for rules to apply to both EU-produced and imported goods, for better enforcement at the border.
5. **Better informing consumers** and **Green Public Procurement** (the potential is not fully exploited on the ground) should be strengthened to better stimulate production of more sustainable products.
6. **Funding** innovation is also essential. The Euratex Rehubs Initiative, which involves the whole value chain to increase high quality recycling of textiles, should be further supported. Fiscal incentives (tax breaks – shifting taxation from labour to pollution) could be used to support companies especially when innovative technologies are too expensive. **SMEs** need to be especially considered, together with business models for the **reuse** of textiles.

The Director-General intervened with open questions to participants, in particular on their views whether if the numerous steps and commitments done

by industry were enough and if there was room for policy makers to go further. Competitiveness and level playing field clearly stood out as considerations.

The Commissioner closed the roundtable pointing to upcoming measures (Textiles Strategy above all), thanking CEOs for their contribution and inviting to a future similar rendez-vous.

A more detailed report of the roundtable will be shared in the coming days with relevant colleagues within and beyond ENV.



European Commission

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