

Report meeting with Euratex

Participants: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Mauro Scalia and [REDACTED].

On April 12th representatives of Euratex (department of sustainability) met [REDACTED] (HoU B1) to present the activities of Euratex. They were very interesting in hearing from the Commission an update regarding the implementation of the Circular Economy Implementation Report and the Product Policy SWD.

Mauro Scalia introduced Euratex as the main association of manufactures of textiles in the EU. He clarified that the organisation represented mainly manufacturers (SMEs in their majority) although the association counted with integrated companies (which were undertaking retail activities as well (Inditex, Hugo Boss). He remarked that Euratex is composed of members of textile associations at national level with all the EU Member States represented plus non EU countries such as Turkey and Switzerland. [add numbers]

He explained that Euratex's members were not working only on fashion but also on technical textiles and household textiles. He underlined the difficulties that Euratex is facing to communicate to consumers, retailers and citizens more generally, about the role of these two subsectors in ensuring circularity of textiles. He also shared that for policy makers in general was also difficult to understand the technical specificities of some materials, especially what concerns chemicals (he explained the importance of allowing substances that would make the material water proof in case of final products used in certain professions (firefighters).

[REDACTED] presented implementation report and the product policy and stressed the importance of working with retailers. She encouraged Euratex to contact the main retailers associations. She also underlined the key role that the sectors of aeronautics and furniture will play in the transition and the opportunities for Euratex in the case of technical textiles. To this, Mauro explained that they were already working with retailers in the fashion sector. He informed us that they are finalising a joint statement with the members of the Global Fashion Agenda (mostly retailers in clothing sector) to be presented in their annual meeting ("Copenhagen Fashion Summit")

Next steps:

- Meeting at policy officer level to continue discussing the potential of the sector for circularity and synergies with the work on due diligence.
- Euratex is presenting a new policy brief on circular economy and textiles on 14.05. The presentation is going to be coordinated with the Copenhagen Fashion Summit on 15 and 16.05. TBC is they present as well the joint statement.
- Euratex is also taking part in the Ecoinnovation Forum on Textiles, which will take place on 6-7 May in Wien.