

Alberto PACCANELLI  
President



Dirk VANTYGHEN  
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Director General



Commissioner V. Sinkevicius  
European Commission  
200, rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 6 December 2019

Dear Commissioner,

On behalf of EURATEX, the European Apparel and Textile Confederation, we would like to congratulate you on your nomination as Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries in the European Commission.

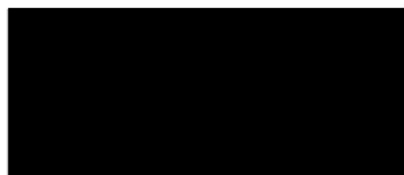
We look forward to working with you and your team, in building a competitive and responsible Europe. With its 171.000 companies employing 1.7 million workers, and a combined turnover exceeding €178 billion (2018), the European textiles and clothing industry can make a significant contribution to achieve the Commission's ambitions.

Within your broad portfolio, we very much welcome your engagement for a **Circular Economy Action Plan**, which since 2017 is a EURATEX priority and in which the textile sector is an important *target*. We are also very pleased to learn about the importance attributed in your mandate to "zero-pollution ambition" which include chemical legislation and REACH as well as "microplastics" as these all perfectly match with our commitments.

We are particularly pleased to inform you that EURATEX has long been engaged with its Membership and companies seeking for solutions to enable circularity in textile value chains.

Today, 6<sup>th</sup> December, we are proud to share our findings in 12 key-points, 6 conditions and 9 action proposals, as we call the European Commission to undertake a key role in enabling circularity and Europe to lead the way.

We are of course available to meet you in person in the months to come, to elaborate on these points, and to develop a positive dialogue and partnership with your services.



Alberto Paccanelli  
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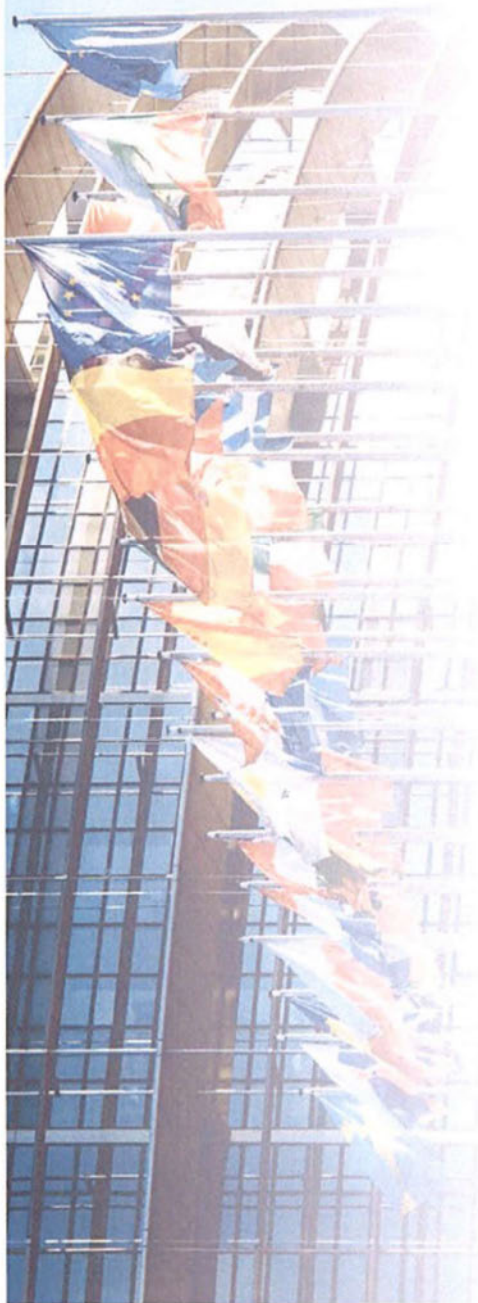
Yours sincerely,



Dirk Vantighem  
Director General







## About EURATEX

As the voice of the European textile and clothing industry, EURATEX works to achieve a favourable environment within the European Union for design, development, manufacture and marketing of textile and clothing products.

The EU textile and clothing industry, with around 171,000 companies employing 1.7 million workers, is an essential pillar of the local economy across many EU regions. With over € 50 billion of exports, the industry is a global player successfully commercializing high added value products on growing markets around the world.

Working together with EU institutions and other European and international stakeholders, EURATEX focuses on clear priorities: an ambitious industrial policy, effective research, innovation and skills development, free and fair trade, and sustainable production and supply chains.

Learn more at [euratex.eu](http://euratex.eu) and follow us on Twitter [@euratex\\_eu](https://twitter.com/euratex_eu)

EURATEX  
THE EUROPEAN APPAREL  
AND TEXTILE CONFEDERATION

## The EU textile & clothing sector Facts & figures

**520** Bn €

With a household **consumption** of 520 Billion €, the EU-28 is the largest world market for textile and clothing products.

**178** Bn €

In 2018, the EU Textile and Clothing industry reached a **turnover** of 178 billion €.

**1.7** million

EURATEX members directly or indirectly represent, in the EU, some 171,000 **companies** of an industry employing 1.7 million **workers**.

**n° 2**

After China, the EU is the **world's second exporter** in textiles and in clothing, with 23% and 28% of world sales respectively.

**75** %

**World clothing consumption** represents 75% of total Textile and Clothing consumption (estimates).

**73** %

The average size of companies is relatively low which explains why they principally trade within the internal market, with **intra-EU exports** representing 73% of EU trade to the world.