

#OutofFashion at UNEA4

FOR LONG-LASTING CLOTHES
THAT DON'T POLLUTE
OUR ENVIRONMENT

Join us to slow down fashion
and ensure clothes don't
cost the Earth.



More than 150 billion garments are now produced annually with 60% more clothes bought today compared to just 15 years ago. These soaring levels of clothing production and consumption are having a devastating impact on the environment, climate, and people.

#OutofFashion is the campaign for a fashion industry where toxic chemicals, plastic pollution and excessive levels of waste are consigned to history.

Alongside those campaigning to stop human and labour rights' violations in the textile industry, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is calling on worldwide decision makers to better address textiles in terms of circularity and sustainability as part of its work advocating for a fairer, more environmentally-friendly and detoxified textile supply chain, and consistent product policies.

In 2015, global leaders committed to achieving sustainable consumption and production through Sustainable Development Goal 12. To meet this commitment, policies that promote more sustainable, slower fashion are essential to reduce material consumption and emissions from the textile industry – and protect the millions of workers up and down the global supply chain.

Ultimately, we would like to see the European Commission and other countries take legislative action for binding legal harmonised frameworks for responsible business conduct in garment sector supply chains. These should include key criteria for sustainable production, labelling systems on the sustainable performance of textiles, and Extended Producer Responsibility schemes.

“Over 70% of people think clothing brands should be responsible for what happens in their supply chains and should ensure garments are manufactured in an environmentally-friendly way.”

Changing Markets Foundation survey

“The fast fashion business model of take, make, dispose, repeat is unsustainable for people and planet, and urgently needs to change. It makes a mockery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”

Andrea Speranza, TRAIID

“The fashion industry has marked its own homework for too long.”

UK Environmental Audit Committee's
Fixing Fashion report



Why binding global rules for green fashion are better than voluntary schemes



ENVIRONMENT

While some clothing brands are making inroads to sustainability, given the stark scientific warnings on climate change and nature loss, progress is too slow. We need laws for the fashion industry – not environmental goodwill. Fashion's negative environmental impacts include high levels of textile waste, pollution and depletion of water sources, and soil pollution from the toxic pesticides used to grow cotton. The fashion industry produces over 1.2 billion tonnes of carbon emissions a year and without transformative change, by 2050 it could be responsible for more than a quarter of the world's total carbon emissions.



ECONOMY

The prevailing lack of transparency along the textile supply chain makes it easy for companies to evade responsibility for their environmental impacts. Fashion businesses that want to operate sustainably are faced with competition from those that don't. Binding environmental rules can give businesses a level playing field and a legal basis that ensures brands act responsibly towards our planet's finite natural resources.



SOCIETY

Putting in place rules that make producers financially responsible for waste is one way to promote fashion business models based on the repair, reuse, and rental of clothing. Stronger environmental criteria for how clothes are produced would benefit the most vulnerable textile industry workers around the world who have to handle toxic chemicals used in production processes.



Building blocks for sustainable textiles

- Design clothes in ways that don't harm the planet
- Make sustainable and affordable options widely available to consumers
- Ensure access to information on chemicals of concern in textile products so they can be tracked throughout their supply chains, including for products made of recycled materials.

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 #OutofFashion



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