European Commission

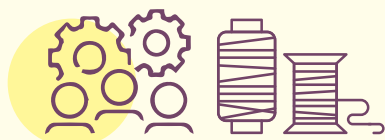# Sustainable and Circular Textiles by 2030

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#EUGreenDeal

European consumption of textiles has the **fourth highest impact** on the environment and climate change, after food, housing and mobility.

It is one of the **top three pressures on water and land use**, and the **top five** in terms of raw material use and greenhouse gas emissions in the EU.

The textiles, clothing and leather manufacturing sector **employs around 1.7 million Europeans** and is a key asset to stimulate local jobs and business opportunities.

## The Commission's 2030 Vision for Textiles

**All textile products** placed on the EU market are:
- durable, repairable and recyclable,
- to a great extent made of recycled fibres,
- free of hazardous substances,
- produced respecting social rights.

"Fast fashion is out of fashion" – consumers benefit longer from **high quality textiles**.

Profitable **re-use and repair services** are widely available.

In a **competitive, resilient and innovative textile sector** producers take responsibility for their products along the value chain.

**Circular rather than throw-away clothes have become the norm**, with sufficient capacities for recycling and minimal incineration and landfilling.

## Textile waste: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The proposed new EU rules on waste will support the separate collection of textile waste, which becomes mandatory in the EU in 2025. They will create:

**Mandatory and harmonised Extended Producer Responsibility for textiles** across all Member States with eco-modulation of fees.

Rules to **manage textile waste in line with the waste hierarchy:** used clothes to be directed as a priority to re-use; more textile waste to be recycled.
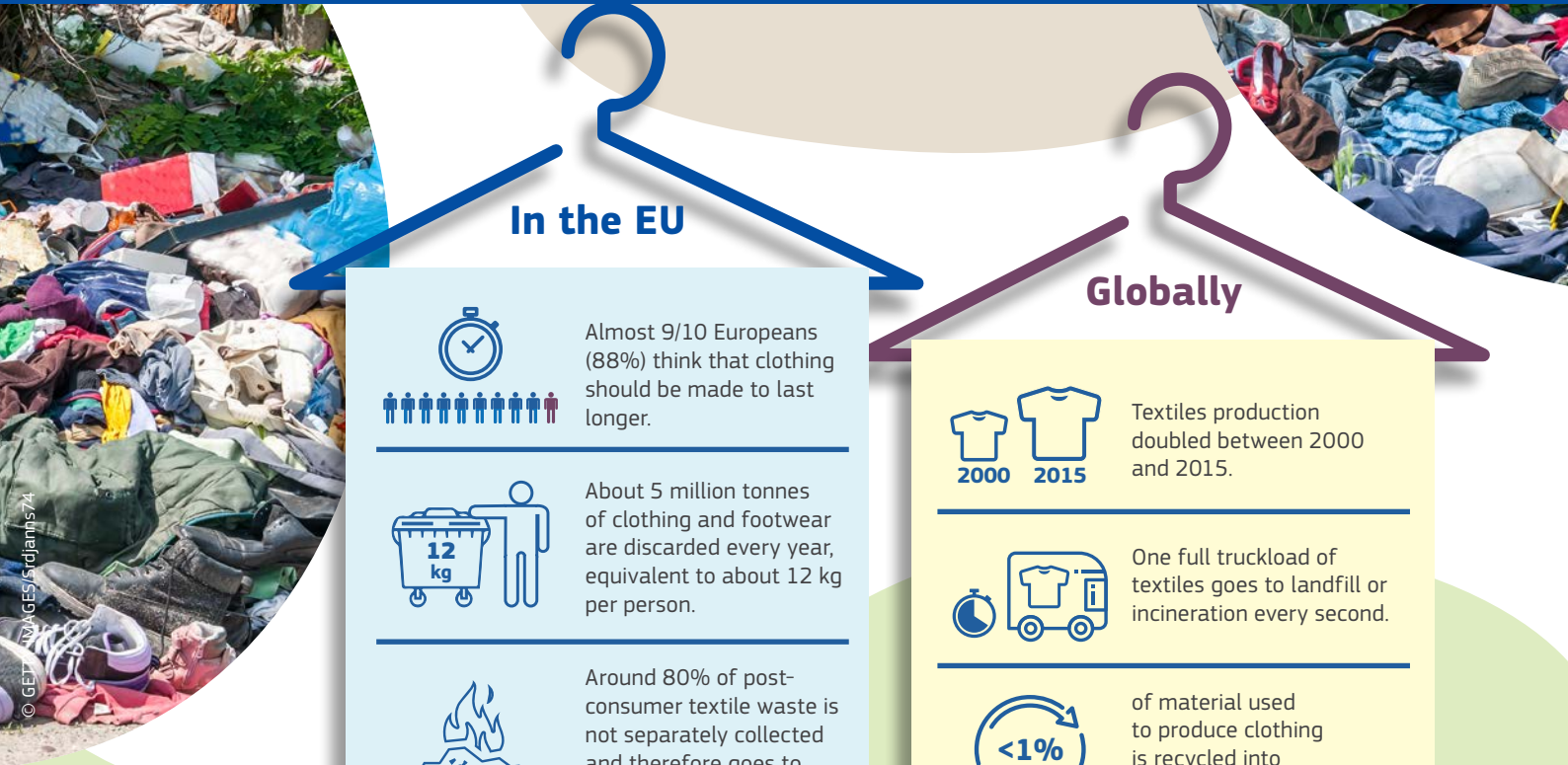
Incentives for producers to **increase the circularity of products** by design, innovate and boost circular economy business models.

**Local jobs and larger markets for used textiles** and secondary raw materials.

**Cost-saving opportunities for citizens** moving from fast fashion to timeless fashion.

## In the EU

Almost 9/10 Europeans (88%) think that clothing should be made to last longer.

**12 kg** — About 5 million tonnes of clothing and footwear are discarded every year, equivalent to about 12 kg per person.

Around 80% of post-consumer textile waste is not separately collected and therefore goes to incineration or landfill.

An average of 20 to 35 jobs are created for every 1.000 tonnes of textiles collected for re-use, such as selling them second-hand.

## Globally

**2000   2015** — Textiles production doubled between 2000 and 2015.

One full truckload of textiles goes to landfill or incineration every second.

**<1%** of material used to produce clothing is recycled into new clothing

**up to 35%** of the microplastics released into the environment can be traced back to textile products.

# Key actions in the Textiles Strategy

Set **design requirements for textiles** to make them last longer, easier to repair and recycle, as well as requirements on minimum recycled content.

Introduce clearer information and a **Digital Product Passport**.

**Tackle greenwashing** to empower consumers and raise awareness about sustainable fashion.

Reverse **overproduction and overconsumption**, and **discourage** the destruction of unsold or returned textiles.

Introduce mandatory and harmonised **Extended Producer Responsibility schemes for textiles with eco-modulation fees**.

Address the **unintentional release of microplastics** from synthetic textiles.

Restrict the **export of textile waste** and promote sustainable textiles globally.

Incentivise **circular business models**, inlcuding reuse and repair sectors.

Encourage companies and Member States to **support the objectives** of the Strategy.