

# **Seminar Summary**

## **Moving the needle #17** **Navigating EU Textile** **Waste Regulation: A** **Comprehensive** **Overview**

Asian Dialogue on Sustainability in the  
Textile and Garment Industry Series

February 2024



# Seminar summary

**In this Seminar we delve into the impact of the proposed Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) and the Waste Framework Directive (WFD).**

## **Discussion topics:**

- Legislative scope, progress and promotion of sustainable waste practices.
- Extended producer responsibility.
- Recycled content targets.
- Criteria to distinguish textile waste from second-hand clothing.

# Speakers

**Marien Giner:** Policy expert working on the EU's textile agenda, sustainable and circular textiles strategy, and the Waste Framework Directive. Marien also coordinates the Reuse involvement in the CISAC project.

**Beatrice Fernandez:** associate program management officer at UNEP.

**Edwina Huang:** co-founder and CEO at PHAEX.

## Seminar key takeaways

- **Introduction of EPR for textiles:** Manufacturers, importers, and distributors will be responsible for textile waste management, financing collection, transport, sorting, and recycling of used textiles.
- **Mandatory textile waste collection (2025 Onward):** All EU nations must implement separate collection systems for used textiles.
- **Reuse and high-quality recycling prioritised:** The regulations emphasise reuse over recycling and landfill disposal.
- **Eco-modulation fees:** Producers will pay fees based on waste volume and eco-design criteria, incentivizing sustainable production practices.
- **Harmonised end-of-waste criteria:** Standardised sorting and recycling processes across EU countries will ensure efficient waste handling.
- **Social enterprise involvement:** Regulations encourage social enterprises' participation in textile collection and sorting.
- **Impact on manufacturers and retailers:** Compliance will require enhanced supply chain transparency and improved waste reporting.

# Proposed solutions

- **National Reuse and Recycling Targets:** Countries should set separate targets for reuse and recycling to prevent excessive waste generation.
- **Financial Support for Social Enterprises:** Provide direct funding and operational assistance to social enterprises managing textile waste.
- **Eco-Modulation Strategies:** Implement progressive EPR fees based on production volume to discourage overproduction.
- **Transparent Data Collection Systems:** Develop unified, EU-wide reporting standards to streamline compliance and track progress.
- **Public-Private Collaboration:** Engage brands, retailers, and recyclers in co-developing sustainable waste solutions.

# Calls-to-action

## **For brands and manufacturers:**

- Conduct supply chain assessments to improve waste traceability.
- Adapt production processes to incorporate sustainable materials.
- Engage in industry alliances to advocate for practical regulatory implementations.

## **For retailers and consumers:**

- Promote circular fashion through resale and repair services.
- Educate consumers on proper textile disposal and recycling options.
- Partner with certified recyclers to ensure responsible waste management.

# Calls-to-action

## **For policy makers:**

- Finalise harmonised guidelines for textile waste classification and treatment.
- Ensure robust enforcement mechanisms for the EPR scheme.
- Facilitate international trade agreements that promote sustainable waste management.

## **For social enterprises and NGOs:**

- Advocate for fair EPR fee distribution to support reuse initiatives.
- Develop capacity-building programs for textile waste workers.
- Collaborate with municipalities to optimize local collection systems.

## **About the Asian Dialogue Series**

The “Asian Dialogues on Sustainability in the Textile and Garment Industry” series was initiated to foster collaboration and strengthen regional knowledge exchange for greater social, environmental and economic sustainability in the sector. Launched in 2015, the series aimed to cultivate regional, sector-specific dialogue and promote cooperation between actors from across the supply chain.

## About Asia Garment Hub

The Asia Garment Hub is a digital one-stop shop tailored to the garment and textiles sector in Asia, viewed through a lens of Decent Work and Sustainability.

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The AGH Circle is a dedicated discussion forum - where you can network and engage with industry professionals in discussions on decent work and environmental sustainability for free.

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