

The EU flagship initiative on the garment sector

Euratex considerations

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Human rights violations in factories shall not be tolerated. Abuses and working conditions breaching core ILO standards shall be stopped wherever they take place.

Euratex, the European Textile and Apparel Confederation, welcomes the commitment of the European Institutions to improve sustainability in the global garment supply chain, also promoting quality and sustainability of EU textile and clothing productions.

In particular, the European Parliament has recently done a tremendous effort to investigate options and proposals to achieve fair and responsible global value chains.

Euratex welcomes such an effort and looks forward to supporting the achievement of concrete results; to this purpose we wish to reiterate our [considerations](#) and particularly the following:

- **Voluntary initiatives do work**
Building up on successful existing initiatives is the way forward. E.g. the Bangladesh Accord and many other global/ local initiatives do make a difference, without requiring a new EU Regulation.
- **No new mandatory ruling**
There is no evidence that new complex EU Regulations, unfeasible trade rules, new certification-systems may solve the problem. Clearly, these would hit responsible businesses, especially SMEs.
- **One size does not fit all**
Successful standards/practices shall be harmonized, yet diversity in the value chain shall be protected against monopoly.
- **SMEs**
Small businesses have limited resources, they are a key asset in European manufacturing especially in high-end, luxury but also fashion.
- **Collaboration with ILO and OECD**
The OECD due diligence guidance are now completed and shall be implemented globally. This work defines a common framework for due diligence obligations and roles of parties.

Key recommendations

The work done in the European Parliament (EP) can be a great opportunity to improve sustainability in the global garment supply chain, stopping abuses and prevent incidents. The outcome shall be feasible, effective and have an impact at global level. There is a need to seize the momentum and constructively work together to:

1. **Help voluntary-based initiatives to delivery** at global level. Build on achievements of OECD, ILO, UN, other successful public/ private initiatives. **Refrain from new mandatory regulatory systems.**
2. Promote **transparency and simplicity**, supporting (not imposing) traceability for SMEs, encourage green public procurement, reduce audits fatigue by sharing audit results, harmonize standards while maintaining diversity.
3. Enable a **level playing field** for a global impact, same conditions for EU and non-EU companies.
4. **Inform consumers**, facilitate simple information and transparency for consumers, help consumers choosing sustainable products.

We look forward to constructively working together in the next steps.