

**Question for written answer E-002551/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Martin Günther (The Left)

Subject: High microfibre emissions from synthetic textiles and the need for product-specific regulation

In the light of growing evidence¹ that certain synthetic textiles, in particular polyester fleece, release disproportionately high quantities of microfibres throughout their life cycle, including during production, washing, drying and wear, and noting that fabric construction (e.g. brushed surfaces) significantly increases fibre shedding, and that current EU policy does not differentiate between textile products based on their microfibre emission intensity:

1. Does the Commission recognise that specific textile types, such as fleece, represent disproportionately large sources of microplastic pollution compared to other materials?
2. How does the Commission intend to address microfibre shedding at product design level under existing or forthcoming legislation, including the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation?
3. Is the Commission considering the introduction of requirements or restrictions for high-shedding textile products, including design standards, material choices or performance thresholds for fibre release, such as minimum durability requirements and measurable limits on fibre shedding for textiles placed on the EU market?

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¹ Novotna J, Tunak M, Militky J, Kremenakova D, Wiener J, Novakova J, Sevcu A., ‘Release of Microplastic Fibers from Polyester Knit Fleece during Abrasion, Washing, and Drying’, ACS Omega, 31 March 2025; 10(14):14241-14249. doi: 10.1021/acsomega.5c00258. PMID: 40256517; PMCID: PMC12004151.