

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002513/24
to the Commission**

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(13 November 2024)

Subject: Fashion-sector companies unable to the EU ‘Fit for 55’ plan’s carbon footprint targets

A market survey conducted by ‘the European House Ambrosetti’ and presented at the 3rd Sustainable Fashion Forum in Venice has shown that the goals of the ‘Fit for 55’ plan — a 55% cut in emissions on 1990 levels by 2030 — are currently impossible for European fashion companies to achieve.

To do so would require them to invest almost EUR 30 billion in decarbonisation immediately, at a time of sharply falling turnover and when the overall investment rate has fallen by 7.9%. Alternatively they would have to slash their output, with an estimated loss of revenue of some EUR 157 billion, an unsustainable course of action for European SMEs in the sector.

After the car industry, fashion could also be hit by an EU regulation that bears no relation to the sector’s true capacity for adaptation.

Does the Commission not think it should be boosting a flagship sector of the European economy by providing greater support and setting a more appropriate deadline so the entire industry can address the sustainable transition and meet decarbonisation goals with greater ease?

Submitted: 13.11.2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(19 March 2025)

The Commission acknowledges the importance of the textile sector, including the fashion industry, for the European economy, culture and creativity.

At the same time, textile production and consumption have major effects on the environment and on climate change, as underlined in the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles ⁽¹⁾ and the European Environment Agency report ⁽²⁾. The EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles proposed an agenda to support the sector’s shift towards the green transition.

Reducing environmental and climate impacts from textiles is essential to achieve a sustainable transition and to meet the climate targets set under the EU ‘Fit for 55’ legislative package.

The Commission recognises the importance of mobilising investments and supporting operators in adopting circular business models and processes.

In this respect, the Commission has put forward a proposal for a co-programmed European Partnership ‘Textiles of the Future’ ⁽³⁾ under Horizon Europe ⁽⁴⁾ under the second Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027 ⁽⁵⁾.

In the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and NextGenerationEU, EUR 658 billion is allocated to spending for climate-relevant objectives.

In most of the EU funding programmes (including Recovery and Resilience Facility ⁽⁶⁾, the InvestEU programme ⁽⁷⁾, Cohesion Funds ⁽⁸⁾, or Horizon Europe ⁽⁹⁾) investments on decarbonisation are eligible for all sectors including fashion.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2022) 141 final, https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/textiles-strategy_en

⁽²⁾ EEA (2022), <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/textiles-and-the-environment-the>

⁽³⁾ Innovative actions such as small scale demonstration, piloting of new technologies and innovative business models for competitive manufacturing of sustainable textile products may be funded under the partnership.

⁽⁴⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

⁽⁵⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/strategic-plan_en

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en

⁽⁷⁾ https://investeu.europa.eu/investeu-programme_en

⁽⁸⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/cohesion-fund_en

⁽⁹⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

In addition, textile companies, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises ⁽¹⁰⁾, can be supported through the Enterprise Europe Network ⁽¹¹⁾, the Eurocluster initiative ⁽¹²⁾, the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform ⁽¹³⁾, and through the Transition Pathway for the Textiles Ecosystem ⁽¹⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Small and medium-sized enterprises represent more than 99% of the companies active in the EU textile sector (Eurostat).

⁽¹¹⁾ <https://een.ec.europa.eu/>

⁽¹²⁾ <https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/euroclusters>

⁽¹³⁾ <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en>

⁽¹⁴⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/textiles-ecosystem/textiles-transition-pathway_en