

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003049/25
to the Commission
Saskia Bricmont (Verts/ALE), David Cormand (Verts/ALE)
(23 July 2025)**

Subject: Extended producer responsibility scheme and the textile sector

While the President of the Commission has committed to making circular economy a priority ⁽¹⁾, social enterprises that arrange for the collection and sale of second-hand clothes — and are now responsible for collecting textile waste and for the costs thereof — are going bankrupt or are at risk of doing so ⁽²⁾. The amount of textile waste, including low-quality textiles, keeps on piling up. Recycling capacities are still not up to scratch, but the requirement to collect textiles came into force on 1 January 2025. Social enterprises are unable to manage those costs.

1. What corrective action will the Commission take to ensure that the processing and cost of textile waste does not fall on social enterprises?
2. Given that the extended producer responsibility scheme will be fully up and running by 2028, will an EU-level emergency fund to support social enterprises have been set up by then to prevent the internal market fragmenting? How will Member States be able to access it quickly to cover the new costs linked to textile waste streams?

Submitted: 23.7.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(19 September 2025)**

As stated in its reply to Written Question E-002217/25, the Commission is aware of the challenges the textile second-hand sector is facing mainly because of the growing volume of used textiles and textile waste resulting from (ultra-) fast fashion practices.

The obligation for Member States to set up separate collection for textiles by 1 January 2025 was introduced in the revised Waste Framework Directive (WFD) ⁽¹⁾. The WFD does not include specific requirements and leaves to Member States the flexibility to design textile collection systems responding to their specificities and needs.

With the recent targeted revision of the WFD ⁽²⁾, the Commission proposed to support Member States and the textile second-hand sector by introducing extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes for textiles and by recognising the key role of social economy entities in the collection of second-hand textiles.

Once the EPR for textiles is established, the producers will financially contribute to the collection and management of end-of-life textiles.

This will benefit reuse operators and social economy entities, which will have the possibility to keep their collection points and even have their textile waste collected for free, provided they choose to have their collection points made part of the producer responsibility organisation's collection system.

The Commission is not planning to set up a dedicated EU-level emergency fund to support social economy entities in the textile sector.

In its information note ⁽³⁾, the Commission highlighted some envisaged measures at EU-level to support the recycling sector, including textiles, and invited Member States to complement these efforts with national measures, also by mobilising Cohesion policy funds ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en, p.9

⁽²⁾ <https://www.lecho.be/entreprises/textile/les-collecteurs-de-textiles-de-seconde-main-reclament-des-mesures-urgentes-a-l-ue/10585157.html>

⁽³⁾ Directive (EU) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 109-140.

⁽⁴⁾ Which was adopted by the European Parliament on 9 September 2025.

⁽⁵⁾ Presented to the Council (Environment) on 17 June 2025 — <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9967-2025-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽⁶⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/available-budget_en.