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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.12.2025)

Under the revised Waste Framework Directive (WFD)¹, the extended producer responsibility (EPR) obligations for textiles must be fulfilled collectively by Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) on behalf of producers. This approach ensures that individual producers, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), are not solely responsible for the costs of collection, sorting, and recycling activities. PROs will implement EPR obligations, including the fulfilment of administrative tasks, and must avoid imposing excessive burdens on SMEs². Also, EPR obligations do not apply to self-employed tailors producing customised products, and their application is deferred by twelve months³ for microenterprises.

The WFD establishes that separately collected textiles are considered waste and introduces sorting requirements prior to shipping of used textiles. Without such prior sorting, textiles remain waste, and their shipment is subject to the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR)⁴. The WSR rules differ for waste exports to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries compared to non-OECD countries. Shipments of hazardous textile waste to non-OECD countries are prohibited. Shipments of non-hazardous waste to non-OECD countries will be prohibited as of 21 May 2027. Non-OECD countries may continue importing non-hazardous textile waste from the EU if they notify the Commission of their intent to import such waste and demonstrate their capability to manage it in an environmentally sound manner.

PROs are mandated to use EPR fees to organise waste management, including the related support for research and development. This is also expected to incentivise the development of adequate infrastructure.

¹ Article 22c(1): Directive (EU) 2025/1892 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 September 2025 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, . OJ L, 2025/1892, 26.9.2025.

² In line with the overall simplification objective.

³ Taking effect on 17 April 2029.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on shipments of waste, amending Regulations (EU) No 1257/2013 and (EU) 2020/1056 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006.