

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002551/26
to the Commission
Martin Günther (The Left)
(22 June 2026)**

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

In the light of growing evidence ⁽¹⁾ 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?

Submitted: 22.6.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(25 August 2026)**

The Commission recognised the environmental impacts of the shedding of microplastics from synthetic textiles in the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles ⁽¹⁾.

In view of the broader environmental impacts of this sector, the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products and Energy Labelling Working Plan 2025-2030 ⁽²⁾ prioritised the preparation of ecodesign requirements for textile apparel.

The aim of the requirements is to make products more sustainable and circular by removing the worst performing products from the market, and by driving sustainable consumption through provision of information on product environmental impacts.

A preparatory study by the Joint Research Centre is ongoing and aims to identify feasible measures that will be further considered in an impact assessment. This study will include an analysis on the fragmentation of textile into microfibres.

In parallel, the Commission is working on a revision of Environmental Footprint methods ⁽³⁾ for modelling, calculating, and reporting the life cycle environmental impacts of products, such as textiles. Among other aspects, this revision is expected to integrate methods to address the release of microplastics.

¹ Novotna J, Tunak M, Miltky 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.

⁽¹⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/textiles-strategy_en.

⁽²⁾ https://green-forum.ec.europa.eu/news/2025-2030-working-plan-2025-07-11_en.

⁽³⁾ https://green-forum.ec.europa.eu/green-business/environmental-footprint-methods_en.