

# EPR as an instrument to tackle microplastics pollution

EPR Club international conference

24 February 2021



## EU textile and clothing industry in numbers

 162 billion €

**TURNOVER**

 160,000

**COMPANIES**

 1,500,000

**EMPLOYEES**

 61 billion €

**EXTRA EU EXPORTS**

# Industry perspectives

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**EPR** Seven ways how EPR can support the transition to Circular Economy

**Microplastic release** what we learned working global researchers

# how a good **EPR** could look like:

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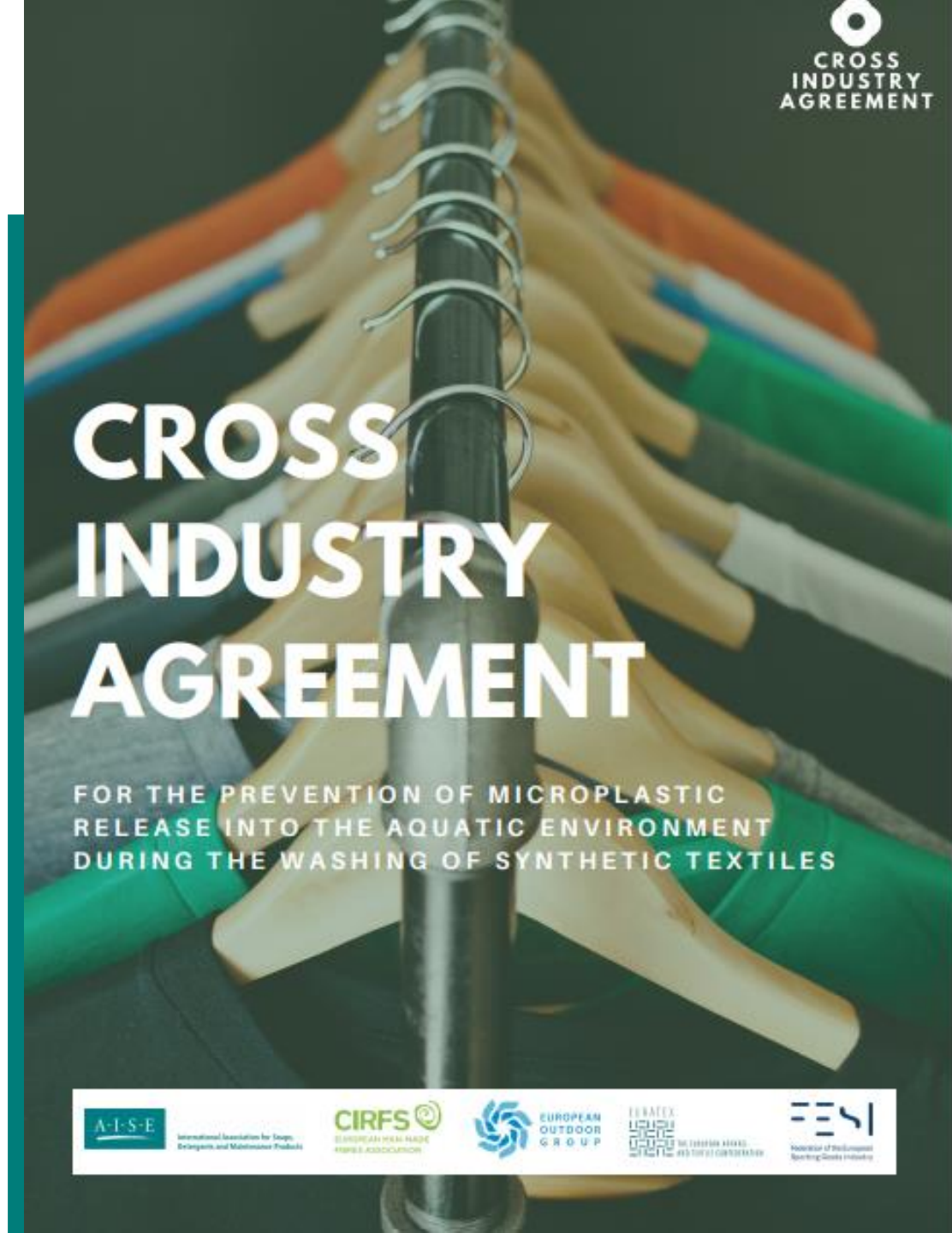
- designed to support circularity
- value different Textiles
- solve real problems
- no contradictions across the EU
- agreement for 1 single Eco-modulation concept
- no detrimental unintended consequences
- enable Circular Economy through cooperation and shared responsibility



# Joint work against Microplastic (or fiber fragmentation)

20 Organisations

1 harmonised test method



# One method

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1

## **KEY AIM**

Allow for simple and effective comparison of textile fabrics.

2

## **DESIGN**

Be appropriate for all fibre types and fabrics structures. Ensure that any instrumentation is standard equipment commonly found in textile testing laboratories and that the method is relevant globally.

3

## **PARAMETERS**

Multiple method parameters were reviewed and tested under various conditions to ensure that results were repeatable and reproducible.

4

## **PRINCIPLE**

The basis of the test involves a test specimen being subjected to an accelerated laundering process under appropriate conditions of temperature, time and mechanical action. The resultant wash liquor is vacuum filtered. Fibre loss is assessed gravimetrically to approximate fibre loss during domestic laundering, however, direct correlation has yet to be determined.

# myths vs facts

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✗ Most microplastics  
come from textiles

✗ Synthetic textiles  
release more fibre  
fragments

✗ Fibre fragmentation  
only occurs while  
washing our clothes

Raw Material  
Processing

Material Production

Finished Product  
Assembly

Use

End of Life

# collaboration

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## CONTACT & INFO

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The research organisations and stakeholders mentioned hereafter participate in the Cross Industry Agreement joint efforts to tackle microplastics by developing a harmonised test method and sharing knowledge to find solutions.





# Risk

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- Understandable concern around the potential impacts on environment, marine life and health
- But data are extremely limited

## A scientific perspective on microplastics in nature and society

The best available evidence suggests that microplastics and nanoplastics do not pose a widespread risk to humans or the environment, except in small pockets. But that evidence is limited, and the situation could change if pollution continues at the current rate.

SAPEA

Quote source: [www.sapea.info/topics/microplastics/](http://www.sapea.info/topics/microplastics/)



# Supporting an EU policy goal

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**Data** needed in large amounts to compare solutions

**Know the risks** investigation needed

**Proposals** for feasible and effective solution/s, based on research

# Publications



**Mauro Scalia**  
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