

## Joint SSDC Textiles & Clothing Statement

### An ambitious European industrial policy for a competitive and sustainable textiles and clothing sector

The European textiles and clothing sector is set for a major transformation which will affect both industry and workers. The EU's strategy for sustainable and circular textiles aims to ensure that by 2030, textile products placed on the EU market are long-lived and recyclable with the industry moving from a linear to a circular business model. This strategy is accompanied with the EU's transition pathway for a more resilient, sustainable, and digital textiles ecosystem linking the green transition with the digital transition while stressing the need for the sector to remain competitive.

**IndustriAll European Trade Union** (industriAll Europe) and **Euratex**, representing the workers and employers in the textiles and clothing sectors respectively, jointly highlight both the challenges and opportunities of the giant forthcoming transformation of the sector and call for action to ensure that European industrial policy is fit for purpose and enables the sector to transform without negatively impacting workers or European industry.

Specifically, the European social partners jointly call for:

1. EU action to guarantee that the European textiles ecosystem remains competitive, including **ensuring a level global playing field**.
2. **Measures to increase the demand** of sustainable products including awareness raising campaigns, incentives such as lower VAT rates, and sustainability criteria in public procurement.
3. Measures to ensure **access to green and affordable energy**.
4. Policy gaps to be addressed, such as promoting a harmonised **Extended Producer Responsibility** approach across the EU and ensuring that SMEs can use **Product Environmental Footprints**.
5. Action to ensure that the **Sustainable Products Regulation** and the forthcoming **Digital Product Passport** will offer a transparent, predictable and SME-friendly framework.
6. Investment in attracting, training and reskilling workers including via concrete support for the **EU Pact for Skills**.
7. Appropriate funding, sound metrics and legal incentives at regional, national, and European level to **support the green and digital transitions of the textile and clothing sectors**.
8. **Regional and national authorities to coordinate with sectoral social partners** to ensure that the green and digital transitions are fair and just and do not leave the industry, regions or workers behind.

Social dialogue will be more vital than ever in order to ensure that the European textiles and clothing sector can transform into a more sustainable and digital industry while also remaining competitive on a fierce global market. IndustriAll Europe, Euratex, and their members, will continue to engage in quality social dialogue and to respect collective bargaining in accordance with national practices.

**The European textiles and clothing sector has a proud history, and the European social partners will continue to work together to ensure a resilient and sustainable future for the industry and its workers for generations to come.**

*Signed Brussels, 14 December 2022*