

Social Dialogue Textile & Clothing: Work Programme 2023 - 2024

Brussels, 14 December 2022

Introduction

The European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee in the Textile & Clothing industries was established in the early '90s. It is the structured dialogue forum between workers, represented by industriAll European Trade Union (industriAll Europe), and employers, represented by Euratex. The SSDC is supported by the European Commission and facilitates joint discussions on key topics (e.g. international trade and skills) and has led to joint work including an EU-funded project on Ensuring a Sustainable Future for the South-Eastern European TCLF industries.

The European Social Partners intend to continue this fruitful cooperation and set out common areas of interest in this Work Programme (2023-2024).

Key areas of interest 2023 - 2024

The European Social Partners plan to follow a range of topics (listed below) and will decide on possible joint work as required on an ad-hoc basis.

Areas of interest

The social partners have identified various areas of interest and will discuss these issues and agree on potential joint action (e.g. statements, letters, events, campaigns or projects) as required.

Industrial Policy

The social partners support the need for a strong European industrial policy which allows the European textiles and clothing sector to remain competitive in the face of fierce international competition. The social partners will follow relevant files included in the **EU Sustainable Textiles Strategy**, such as the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation** and the **Digital Product Passport**.

Work will also continue on the EU-funded project ***"Ensuring a Sustainable Future for the South-Eastern European TCLF industries"***, which as well as focusing on building capacity and improving social dialogue will also encourage national governments to develop a more supportive industrial policy to support the textiles and garments sectors in these project countries.

The social partners will also continue their collaboration with the European Commission and other relevant stakeholders on the **transition pathway for the textiles ecosystem**.

Trade Policy

Fair international trade is a key issue for the social partners and all relevant trade issues will be followed, including monitoring the **negotiations of EU trade agreements** (ongoing) and reviewing the Commission's draft proposal on **GSP Regulation (2020)**.

Sustainability Policy

The social partners will continue to monitor European discussions and files in relation to sustainability, including the **Circular Economy Action Plan** (part 2) and the forthcoming proposals on tackling greenwashing, plus all relevant initiatives included in the **European Green Deal**.

Skills & Innovation

Social issues, including the importance of attracting young people to the sector and identifying and tackling skills gaps (including digital and green skills) remain important topics. Furthermore, promoting innovation in the textiles industry, as a means to create more sustainable jobs (i.e. “green” and competitive jobs), will be a priority. The social partners will continue their engagement with the **EU Pact for Skills** for the TCLF sectors.

Decent Work Worldwide

Following the publication of the European Commission’s Communication on Decent Work Worldwide, the social partners will follow the most relevant files including **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence** and **Forced Labour**.

The social partners will discuss additional topics of interest which may arrive on an ad-hoc basis.