CIRFS
EUROPEAN MAN-MADE FIBRES ASSOCIATION

FIBRE FOCUS 2018

President's Message 2018

It is a great pleasure to introduce this first yearly edition of Fibre Focus. A rather positive 2017 is behind us with good growth, not seen since the crisis, although in many areas pre-crisis levels have not been reached yet.

NECAT ALTIN
General Manager, Korteks
Vice President, Zorlu Textile Group
President, CIRFS

Pulled by sustained global demand but also supply issues a widespread strong rise in feedstock and polymer prices was noted with average prices settling at higher or much higher levels than in 2016. This meant price readjustments along the fibre/textile value chain, with consequences in terms of competition for different fibres but also regions of the world, depending on the importance of these cost changes. Raw material prices remain crucial as they are a major driver of fibre prices and the limited ability to push through cost increases in the value chain.

The economic situation improved in the whole European region, despite the fact that consequences of austerity measures, and high public debts continued to have an influence on consumer confidence, particularly in Europe's peripherial areas where unemployment is still high and public spending below average. The health of the financial system improved but fragility remains and this will need to be watched.

On the other hand, volatility of exchange rates continued in 2017. After stagnating in the first half year, the euro strengthened gradually toward the dollar until the end of the year and this trend continued in 2018. This of course impacted user markets and in particular export markets. Uncertainties due to the Brexit should be added to the picture.

All in all, European demand was reported positive with good plant utilization rates and an above average situation in Turkey with significant increases in GDP, industrial manufacturing and textile production. **Indeed, moderate growth in man-made fibre mill consumption** was seen in western Europe, with a good evolution in eastern Europe and strong growth in Turkey. The strong recovery of the automotive industry favoured the demand in mainly technical applications whether more traditional or non-wowen. In home textiles, slow improvement was noted, more strongly in Turkey with however a remaining weak floor coverings and carpets sector in Europe and improving geotextile markets. Some raw material issues were reported as well. Apparel demand continued to be weak, facing a number of demand issues, with differentiated trends depending on segments and on countries. Trends in other technical areas were positive in particular in hygiene and but also certain other applications.

Man-made fibres, whether synthetic or cellulosic again showed their strength over competing materials and are by far the most used material in textiles, compared to natural fibres (81% of fibres used in Europe are man-made, 75% worldwide). Thanks to their **unique properties, price and versatility** in terms of end-uses they remain a material of choice in a wide number of applications in technical textiles, home textiles and increasingly also in apparel. This combined with the limited availability and varying cost of natural fibres means man-made fibres have become indispensable in today's textile world.

The man-made fibres industry is extremely innovative. New fibres and new applications are being developed almost every day. Moreover, production in Europe is probably the cleanest and the most sustainable in the world when it comes to emissions, energy and water use and raw materials with minimization of waste and widespread recycling as well as a strict respect of worker rights and occupational exposure. As a matter of fact, is very important for the industry to operate under fair competitive conditions and in a proper legislative framework.

CIRFS' mission has been to support the man-made fibres industry in its knowledge of the market and advocacy with authorities, making sure its interests are being taken into account.

CIRFS has been providing on a continued basis statistics on fibre, raw materials, textile and user markets further down the value chain, including foreign trade and market forecasts.

In addition, CIRFS has been closely following all legislative developments affecting the man-made fibres industry, actively intervening wherever needed in order to safeguard its members' interests, ranging from economic, internal market, trade (e.g. FTAs, rules of origin), to environmental (REACH, waste, circular economy, emissions…), energy-CO2 emissions trading, technical such as standards and R&D and health and safety issues (occupational exposure). More than ever, 2017 was a very active and challenging year in terms of legislative initiatives and lobbying was needed in many areas, with also proactive initiatives such as the Cross Industry Agreement for the prevention of microplastic release in the aquatic environment from the washing of synthetic clothes.

CIRFS also looked to become more efficient, by **integrating EATP in its structure** under a polyolefins sub-group, avoiding duplication of information and increasing representation of the European industry. In this same framework the **EATP/CIRFS Executive Seminar** has become a real conference for the whole man-made fibres industry and other actors of the value chain.

But many new things are ahead of us: First, logistically. After more than 25 years in the current building, **CIRFS will move to new offices** at the very end of the year in the heart of the European district of Brussels, where it will operate even better and more efficiently in collaboration with CEFIC. Second, in terms of many new challenges lying ahead on the legislative front: among these is the continued availability of indispensable substances under **REACH, the circular economy** with recycling and waste issues, **industrial emissions;** the tackling of **overcapacities** in fibres in Asia through proper trade actions such as trade defence, the safeguard of textile and fibre interests in FTA negotiations with the continuation of the **two-process origin rules in all agreements** etc. Third, CIRFS will also look into new services for its members in order to increase its value-added and look into other possible synergies.

Finally, let me use this opportunity to thank all members for their excellent support. CIRFS is there thanks to you and for you. Do not forget to use its services to the maximum. I look forward to a continued fruitful collaboration with all of you in 2018!

Director General's Report 2018

2017 was again an interesting year. It was marked by a significant increase of the oil price to levels not seen since 2014 and by a further strengthening of the euro, compared to the dollar and several other currencies.

FRÉDÉRIC VAN HOUTE
Director General, CIRFS

The year saw an impressive recovery of the economy in Europe. However, consequences of the great crisis with remaining economic and financial uncertainties as well as political events had an impact on the business. And the overall competitive context was not easier than before, imports from the Far East continuing to put strong pressure on European producers, with new Asian players emerging. Though overall positive, the evolution of the market was uneven, depending on sub-sectors and companies. In this framework, it is worth underlining that innovation, sustainability, adaptability, efficiency in terms of management and care for the client are certainly the main characteristics of successful companies and these have also helped Europe to remain a leader in high quality man-made fibres.

Economic climate and international competition are of course key factors but the political, administrative, and legal context in Europe does have a major impact on the industry as well. CIRFS has continued to represent and defend the man-made fibres industry with European authorities, promoting man-made fibres as indispensable in today's fibres and textile world, able to help Europe to achieve its objectives, for example in terms of sustainability.

Delivering a maximum level of service and valued added at a lowest possible cost has been a key objective of the association. In that respect, CIRFS has continued to supply data group services for individual fibres, other statistics such as foreign trade **statistics** from 68 countries on polymers, fibres and textiles as well as other market information, including a regular press review on the market. Other information such as questions on **tariff duties**, mergers and acquisitions, state aid and internal market have been handled, too.

CIRFS, with close links to Euratex and CEFIC has also been monitoring and intervening in all **trade-related matters** and in particular in **free-trade negotiations**. Several new agreements have been implemented (Ecuador, Canada), some are about to be implemented (Singapore, Vietnam, Japan), others being still under negotiation in different stages of progress (Mercosur, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines) or negotiations are about to be launched (Australia, New Zealand). CIRFS has not stopped to insist on fair origin rules, with "double transformation" as a strict minimum and full reciprocity when it comes to free trade, advocating for a real level playing field. Trade liberalization should not be driven by purely political considerations and without a transparent and solid prior impact assessment. Our association has been actively monitoring **tariff duty suspension requests on imports of fibres and textiles** and successfully opposed these wherever needed – or has requested suspensions in case of insufficient supply of raw materials on the European market. Other issues in the trade area were **trade defence**, with a successful prolongation of anti-dumping duties on imports of **polyester high** tenacity yarns from China and advocacy against the market economy status of China, linked to the new EU anti-dumping/anti-subsidy instruments framework. **Market access** issues and several initiatives to unilaterally liberalize tariffs (e.g. environmental goods agreement) have been successfully addressed as well. CIRFS has also supported the multi-industry initiative for a real European industry policy.

Concerning **environmental matters and sustainability**, CIRFS has been active on an ever-growing number of items. Thanks to active advocacy, it has been able to secure the continued "carbon leakage status for another 10 years under the next phase of the **EU's CO2 emissions trading scheme**. This will allow the industry to receive compensation for higher energy costs related to the trading scheme. The implementation of REACH (new European Chemicals Regulation) has been another hot topic, in particular as to substances of very high concern (SVHC). CIRFS has been advocating for proportionality when tackling aprotic solvents, TiO2, formaldehyde and other relevant substances used in the industry. On industrial emissions, CIRFS has become active again on the review of the textile Best Available Techniques Document **(BREF)** and will be following the same exercise for polymers, too. As to circular economy and waste, CIRFS has been involved in ecoprofiles, the review of the waste criteria and has co-signed the voluntary agreement on the reduction of fibre shedding from washing synthetic clothes and is now working on its implementation. It has also worked on more technical items such as burning behaviour, international standards and European fibre names, together with **BISFA**, the International Bureau for the Standardization of Fibres-now fully integrated in CIRFS- and has given support in **R&D and innovation (Dornbirn Conference)**. Information updates on all above items have been provided regularly through circulars, alerts, activity reports or through the **Executive Seminar** that took place on May 24 in Brussels. It addressed developments in polymers, fibres, textiles, views on global trade, downstream markets, environmental and innovation issues. This year's seminar will be held on May 30 in Brussels.

Last but certainly not least is the current yearly newsletter in its new format. As a matter of fact, it was felt that a new format was needed in order to better reflect the changes in **EATP/CIRFS**. Indeed, 2017 saw the last step of full integration decided by the members of EATP. EATP will function as a polyolefins sub-group of CIRFS with existing services and additional support from CIRFS. CIRFS on the other hand will benefit from a higher representativeness, now also covering polyolefin fibres.

This together with the **global exchange** taking place every year (last year in Xiaoshin/Hangzhou, China under the chairmanship of CIRFS) will further strengthen the role of the European Man-made Fibres Industry as a leading global player.

Times are interesting, though challenging. Being proactive on all issues above will be more important than ever in order to guarantee the best framework possible for the industry to prosper in Europe. ■

World Markets for Technical Textiles to 2022

Forecast done and published by CIRFS.

PAUL FOURNIER
Head of Economics Department, CIRFS

World Markets for Technical Textiles To 2022 is a major report prepared by CIRFS that examines the global market for technical textiles. It provides a comprehensive set of projections to the year 2022.The report helps to identify future business opportunities in the changing market for technical textiles. It gives detailed and reliable information in a single volume that brings together high quality data from authoritative sources to assist strategic planning for years to come. It includes detailed tables giving properties and suitability of different types of technical textile, labour costs, forecasts of global consumption and production of technical textiles up to 2022.

This report can be obtained from International Newsletters:
www.technical-textiles.net/shop/nt/world-markets-technical-textiles-2022-print-format

To order your copy of the report please visit:
www.technical-textiles.net

Man-made fibres relevant duties

Product	Combined Nomenclature	Country	Company	Conven-tional Duty	GSP Duty (1)	Anti-Dumping Duty		Countervailing Duty	
						Provisional	Definitive	Provisional	Definitive
Ethylene Glycol (Ethanediol)	2905.31.00			5.5	2,0 (#)				
		United States		5.5					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		5.5					
		Hong Kong		5.5					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		5.5					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		5.5					
		Vietnam		2.0					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		5.5					
Adipic Acid and its Salts	2917.12.00.10			6.5	2,9 (#)				
		United States		6.5					
		Turkey		0.0					

Product	Combined Nomenclature	Country	Company	Conven-tional Duty	GSP Duty (1)	Anti-Dumping Duty		Countervailing Duty	
						Provisional	Definitive	Provisional	Definitive
		China P.R.		6.5					
		Hong Kong		6.5					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		6.5					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		6.5					
		Vietnam		2.9					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		6.5					
Esters of Adipic Acid	2917.12.00.90			6.5	0,0 (#)				
		United States		6.5					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		6.5					
		Hong Kong		6.5					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		6.5					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		6.5					
		Vietnam		0.0					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		6.5					
Terephthalic Acid and its Salts	2917.36.00			6.5	3,0 (#)				
		United States		6.5					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		6.5					
		Hong Kong		6.5					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		6.5					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		6.5					
		Vietnam		3.0					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					

Man-made fibres relevant duties

Product	Combined Nomenclature	Country	Company	Conven-tional Duty	GSP Duty (1)	Anti-Dumping Duty		Countervailing Duty	
						Provisional	Definitive	Provisional	Definitive
		Russia		6.5					
Dimethyl Terephthalate	2917.37.00			6.5	0,0 (#)				
		United States		6.5					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		6.5					
		Hong Kong		6.5					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		6.5					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		6.5					
		Vietnam		0.0					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		6.5					
Hexamethylenediamine and its Salts	2921.22.00			6.5	3,0 (#)				
		United States		6.5					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		6.5					
		Hong Kong		6.5					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		6.5					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		6.5					
		Vietnam		3.0					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		6.5					
Acrylonitrile	2926.10.00			6.5	3,0 (#)				
		United States		6.5					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		6.5					
		Hong Kong		6.5					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		6.5					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		6.5					

Man-made fibres relevant duties

Product	Combined Nomenclature	Country	Company	Conven-tional Duty	GSP Duty (1)	Anti-Dumping Duty		Countervailing Duty	
						Provisional	Definitive	Provisional	Definitive
		Vietnam		3.0					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		6.5					
6 - Hexanelactam	2933.71.00			6.5	0,0 (#)				
(epsilon - caprolactam)		United States		6.5					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		6.5					
		Hong Kong		6.5					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		6.5					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		6.5					
		Vietnam		0.0					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		6.5					
Polypropylene	3902.10.00 (*)			6.5	3.0				
		United States		6.5					
(*) The EU is applying an autonomous tariff suspension (i.e. 0%) for: 3902.10.00.20 3902.10.00.30 (end use) 3902.10.00.40		Moldova		0.0					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		6.5					
		Hong Kong		6.5					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		3.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		6.5					
		Malaysia		6.5					
		Thailand		6.5					
		Vietnam		3.0					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		6.5					
Polyethylene Terephthalate	3907.61			6.5	0.0				

Man-made fibres relevant duties

Product	Combined Nomenclature	Country	Company	Conven-tional Duty	GSP Duty (1)	Anti-Dumping Duty		Countervailing Duty	
						Provisional	Definitive	Provisional	Definitive
	3907.69 (*)			6.5	3.0				
! IMPORTANT Definitive countervailing duties are only applicable on imports of PET used in the plastics industry for the production of bottles and sheet defined as having a viscosity number of 78ml/g or higher (i.e. 3907.61) Anti-dumping duties and countervailing duties given in Euros/tonne (*) The EU is applying an autonomous tariff suspension (i.e. 0%) for: 3907.69.00.10									
		United States		6.5					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		6.5					
		As of February 8th 2017, there are no anti-dumping duties on imports from this country since the expiry rewiew lodged by the Committee of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Manufacturers in Europe ('C.P.M.E') was unsuccessful. (COMMISSION DECISION (EU) 2017/206 published in the Official Journal of the European Union L 32/53 - 07/02/2017)							
3907.69.00.40									
3907.69.00.60									
		Hong Kong		6.5					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		0 or 3					
			Pearl Engineering Polymers Ltd.						74.6
			Reliance Industries Ltd.						69.39
			Senpet Ltd.						22.0
			Futura Polyesters Ltd.						0.0
			Dhunseri Petrochem Limited						35.69
			Others						69.4
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		6.5					
		Vietnam		0 or 3					
		Thailand		6.5					
		Indonesia		0 or 3					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Australia		6.5					
		Iran		6.5					

Product	Combined Nomenclature	Country	Company	Conven-tional Duty	GSP Duty (1)	Anti-Dumping Duty		Countervailing Duty	
						Provisional	Definitive	Provisional	Definitive
		United Arab Emirates		6.5					
		Russia		6.5					
Polyamide-6, -11, -12, -6,6, -6,9, -6,10 or -6,12	3908.10.00			6.5	2.2				
		United States		6.5					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		6.5					
		Hong Kong		6.5					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		2.2					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		6.5					
		Thailand		6.5					
		Vietnam		2.2					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		6.5					
Acrylic or Modacrylic Staple	5503.30.00			4.0	3,2 (#)				
		United States		4.0					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		4.0					
		Hong Kong		4.0					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Thailand		4.0					
		Vietnam		3.2					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Polyamide Staple including Aramids	5503.11.00 (*)			4.0	3,2 (#)				
	5503.19.00	United States		4.0					
(*) The EU is applying an autonomous tariff suspension (i.e. 0%) for: 5503.11.00.10		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		4.0					
		Hong Kong		4.0					

Man-made fibres relevant duties

Product	Combined Nomenclature	Country	Company	Conven-tional Duty	GSP Duty (1)	Anti-Dumping Duty		Countervailing Duty	
						Provisional	Definitive	Provisional	Definitive
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Thailand		4.0					
		Vietnam		3.2					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Polyester Staple	5503.20.00			4.0	3,2 (#)				
		United States		4.0					
		Turkey		0.0					
		Saudi Arabia		4.0					
		China P.R.		4.0					
		Hong Kong		4.0					
		Indonesia		3.2					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		Belarus		4.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Thailand		4.0					
		India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Australia		4.0					
		Malaysia		4.0					
		Vietnam		3.2					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Viscose Staple	5504.10.00			4.0	3,2 (#)				
		United States		4.0					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		4.0					
		Hong Kong		4.0					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Thailand		4.0					

Product	Combined Nomenclature	Country	Company	Conven-tional Duty	GSP Duty (1)	Anti-Dumping Duty		Countervailing Duty	
						Provisional	Definitive	Provisional	Definitive
		Vietnam		3.2					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Polypropylene Staple	5503.40.00			4.0	3,2 (#)				
		United States		4.0					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		4.0					
		Hong Kong		4.0					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Thailand		4.0					
		Vietnam		3.2					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Polyester Filament Tow	5501.20.00			4.0	3,2 (#)				
		United States		4.0					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		4.0					
		Hong Kong		4.0					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Belarus		4.0					
		Thailand		4.0					
		Vietnam		3.2					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Polyamide Yarn, including	5402.19.00			4.0	3,2 (#)				

Man-made fibres relevant duties

Product	Combined Nomenclature	Country	Company	Conven-tional Duty	GSP Duty (1)	Anti-Dumping Duty		Countervailing Duty	
						Provisional	Definitive	Provisional	Definitive
High-tenacity and Elastomeric Yarn	5402.31.00	United States		4.0					
	5402.32.00	Turkey		0.0					
(*) The EU is applying an autonomous tariff suspension (i.e. 0%) for: 5402.45.00.20	5402.44.00	China P.R.		4.0					
	5402.45.00 (*)	Hong Kong		4.0					
	5402.51.00	Republic of Korea		0.0					
	5402.61.00	India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Thailand		4.0					
		Vietnam		3.2					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Polyester Partially Oriented Yarn	5402.46.00			4.0	3,2 (#)				
		United States		4.0					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		4.0					
		Hong Kong		4.0					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Thailand		4.0					
		Vietnam		3.2					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Polyester Textured Yarn	5402.33.00			4.0	3,2 (#)				
		United States		4.0					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		4.0					
		Hong Kong		4.0					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Indonesia		3.2					

Product	Combined Nomenclature	Country	Company	Conventional Duty	GSP Duty (1)	Anti-Dumping Duty		Countervailing Duty	
						Provisional	Definitive	Provisional	Definitive
		Thailand		4.0					
		Malaysia		4.0					
		Vietnam		3.2					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Polyester High-tenacity Yarn	5402.20.00.05			4.0	3,2 (#)				
	5402.20.00.10	United States		4.0					
		Turkey		0.0					
! IMPORTANT Definitive anti-dumping duties are only applicable on imports of HTYP not put up for retail sale, including monofilament of less than 67 decitex (excluding sewing thread and "Z"-twisted multiple (folded) or cabled yarn, intended for the production of sewing thread, ready for dyeing and for receiving a finishing treatment, loosely wound on a plastic perforated tube) (i.e. 5402.20.00.10)		Hong Kong		4.0					
		Belarus		4.0					
		India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Thailand		4.0					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		China P.R.		4.0					
			Zhejiang Guxiandao				5.1		
			Zhejiang Unifull				5.5		
Anti-dumping duty given in %			Zhejiang Hailide				0.0		
			Hangzhou Huachun				0.0		
			Heilongjiang Longdi				5.3		
			Hyosung Chemical Fiber				5.3		
			Oriental Industries (Suzhou)				9.8		
			Shanghai Wenlong				5.3		
			Shaoxing Haifu				5.3		
			Sinopec Shanghai				5.3		
			Wuxi Taiji				5.3		
			Jiangsu Hengli				5.3		
			Zhejiang Kingsway				5.3		
			Others				9.8		
		Vietnam		3.2					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Other Polyester Yarn	5402.47.00 (*)			4.0	3,2 (#)				
	5402.52.00	United States		4.0					

Man-made fibres relevant duties

Product	Combined Nomenclature	Country	Company	Conven-tional Duty	GSP Duty (1)	Anti-Dumping Duty		Countervailing Duty	
						Provisional	Definitive	Provisional	Definitive
(*) The EU is applying an autonomous tariff suspension under end use (i.e. 0%) for: 5402.47.00.20	5402.62.00	Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		4.0					
		Hong Kong		4.0					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Thailand		4.0					
		Vietnam		3.2					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Viscose Yarn	5403.31.00			4.0	3,2 (#)				
	5403.32.00	United States		4.0					
	5403.41.00	China P.R.		4.0					
		Hong Kong		4.0					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Thailand		4.0					
		Vietnam		3.2					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Cellulose Acetate Filament Yarn	5403.33.00								
	5403.42.00			4.0	3,2 (#)				
		United States		4.0					
		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		4.0					
		Hong Kong		4.0					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Thailand		4.0					
		Vietnam		3.2					
		South Africa		0.0					

Product	Combined Nomenclature	Country	Company	Conven-tional Duty	GSP Duty (1)	Anti-Dumping Duty		Countervailing Duty	
						Provisional	Definitive	Provisional	Definitive
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Polypropylene Filament Yarn	5402.34.00			4.0	3,2 (#)				
	5402.48.00	United States		4.0					
	5402.53.00	Turkey		0.0					
	5402.63.00	China P.R.		4.0					
		Hong Kong		4.0					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		4.0					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		4.0					
		Thailand		4.0					
		Vietnam		3.2					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		4.0					
Woven Fabrics of Synthetic Filament Yarn	5407.52.00			8.0	6,4 (#)				
	5407.54.00	United States		8.0					
	5407.61.30	Turkey		0.0					
	5407.61.50	China P.R.		8.0					
	5407.61.90	Hong Kong		8.0					
	5407.69.90	Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		8.0					
	New Customs	Pakistan		0.0					
	Code Number	Taiwan		8.0					
		Thailand		8.0					
		Indonesia		6.4					
		Vietnam		6.4					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		8.0					
Sacks and Bags of Polyethylene or	6305.32.11			12.0	9.6				
Polypropylene Strip or the like	6305.33.10	United States		12.0					

Man-made fibres relevant duties

Product	Combined Nomenclature	Country	Company	Conven-tional Duty	GSP Duty (1)	Anti-Dumping Duty		Countervailing Duty	
						Provisional	Definitive	Provisional	Definitive
Knitted or Crocheted		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		12.0					
		Hong Kong		12.0					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		9.6					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		12.0					
		Thailand		12.0					
		Indonesia		9.6					
		Vietnam		9.6					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		12.0					
Sacks and Bags of Polyethylene or	6305.32.19			7.2	5.7				
Polypropylene Strip or the like	6305.33.90	United States		7.2					
Other		Turkey		0.0					
		China P.R.		7.2					
		Hong Kong		7.2					
		Republic of Korea		0.0					
		India		5.7					
		Pakistan		0.0					
		Taiwan		7.2					
		Thailand		7.2					
		Indonesia		5.7					
		Vietnam		5.7					
		South Africa		0.0					
		Mexico		0.0					
		Colombia		0.0					
		Peru		0.0					
		Central America		0.0					
		Russia		7.2					

Notes:
1) GSP stands for Generalised Scheme of Preferences. The legal basis is Regulation No 978/2012 of 25 October 2012 (O.J. No L 303/1 of 31.10.12).
(#) excluding India. As of 1st January 2015, China, Ecuador, the Maldives and Thailand have been removed from the GSP because they have been classified as upper-middle income countries in 2011, 2012 and 2013.
Regarding GSP+ and also as from 1st January 2015, The Philippines benefits from it and Ecuador has ceased to profit from it.
2) The least developed countries are: Afganistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zambia.
3) The rows highlighted in green means that there is a bilateral/regional free trade agreement already in force.
4) Central America comprises the following countries: Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala.
5) EU autonomous tariff suspensions mean that the European Commission decides unilaterally to either:
i) reduce the tariff to a lower level than the normal customs duty rate applied to third countries or,
ii) imply reduce it to 0.
To do so, a request must be made by a company to its national authorities who then send it to the EU institutions who consult the relevant industry to see if there is enough EU production.
When identical, equivalent or substitute products are manufactured in sufficient quantities within the EU, the granting of suspension is normally excluded. These suspensions can be permanent or limited in time and apply for all third countries wishing to export to the EU. Anti-dumping duties are not affected by these suspensions.
6) For export data from the European Union refer to **http://madb.europa.eu/mkaccdb2/indexPubli.htm**

Overview of Concluded and Ongoing **EU** Free Trade Agreements (as of end of March 2018)

	USA	MEXICO	CANADA	CHILE	MERCOSUR
State of Play	Negotiations on hold. The new US Administration and its protectionist approach on trade policy are not allowing further progress	Ongoing negotiations – Modernization	Negotiations concluded	Ongoing negotiations – Modernization	Ongoing negotiations
Starting Date	06/2013	05/2016	04/2009	11/2017	Suspended in 2004; relaunched in 05/2010
(Tentative) End Date	Not defined	1st semester 2018	08/2014	Not defined	1st semester 2018
Last Round/ Next Steps	15th round: 10/2016 Aim: consolidation of texts On market access (trade in industrial goods), discussions focused on possible improvements to both parties' respective tariff offers that would increase the number of tariff lines that would be duty free upon entry into force. On rules of origin (RoOs) for textile and clothing (T&C) products, discussions followed on the basis of comparative tables on Product Specific Rules, identifying the degree of difference in substance between both proposals. Discussions also focused on the specificities for verification of origin proposed by the US. On the regulatory component, issues discussed include exchange of information and possible cooperation on fibre names labelling, cooperation on safety requirements and conformity assessment procedures, and cooperation on standards of relevance for the T&C sector. On rules of trade, the negotiators discussed all chapters	8th round: 02/2018 No exchange of offers for tariff reductions yet. The parties reported that progress was made in areas such as technical barriers to trade, anti-corruption, state-owned enterprises and trade in services while geographical indications are still one of the main sticking issues. For T&C Mexico has moved from a yarn forward rule they were originally asking for to keeping the current standard double transformation rule and quotas for printed fabrics.	FTA signed on 30/10/2016 during the EU-Canada Summit The European Parliament voted in favour on 15/02/2017. Provisional implementation since 21/09/2017. It will be fully implemented once the 38 EU national and regional parliaments ratify it	2nd round: 02/2018 Although the negotiations are still in the early stages discussions have been going well so far according to the EC	7th round (since relaunch): 03/2018 The parties continued working on market access with a view to address their respective export interests. Discussions on RoOs for T&C goods are still not finished. Sectors such as automotive, meat and dairy remain stumbling blocks
Next Round	Not defined	Week of 09/04/2018	-	05/2018	Week of 16/04/2018
Principal Aspects and Sectors (according to the EU Commission)	Investment protection, regulatory cooperation, tariff liberalisation, government procurement	-Market access for goods, services and investment, protection of IPRs, eliminating barriers to trade, promoting sustainable development	Government procurement, investment protection, IPRs, technical barriers to trade	Market access for (agricultural and food) products, investment, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, government procurement, promoting sustainable development Neutral since MMF exports to Chile already benefit from 0% duties	Government procurement, vehicles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals
CIRFS' Position	In favour. Offensive interests	Neutral since MMF exports to Mexico already benefit from 0% duties	Neutral but not satisfied with the agreement to have, for a limited range of goods, reciprocal origin quotas for which single transformation RoOs apply	Neutral since MMF exports to Chile already benefit from 0% duties	In favour. Offensive interests

	INDIA	JAPAN	THE PHILIPPINES	THAILAND
State of Play	Ongoing negotiations	Ongoing negotiations	Negotiations on hold. The EU has concerns over the country's human rights record	Negotiations are stalled since the military takeover in 2014
Starting Date	06/2007	11/2012	12/2015	02/2013
(Tentative) End Date	Not defined	1st semester 2018	08/2014	Not defined
Last Round/ Next Steps	After summer of 2013, negotiations were stalled. In 01/2016, bilateral talks resumed. Discussions to assess the possibility to resume the negotiations continue since then. A Chief Negotiators' meeting with experts took place in Delhi on 14-15/11/2017 and the next meeting will be held on 12/04	Political agreement announced on 6/07/2017. Negotiations finalized on 08/12/2017. However, discussions on both investment protection standards and dispute resolution continue in 2018. Mutual liberalization on tariffs from Day 1 for T&C goods (including MMF products) has been agreed. It has been also confirmed that RoOs for T&C are based on the double transformation principle (Pan-Euro-Med) Expected provisional entry into force: Q1 2019.	2nd round: 02/2017 First, it allowed moving text-based discussions forward in a number of negotiation areas. Second, discussions on market access served to clarify technical questions in relation to respective tariff structures and in view of a future exchange of tariff offers	2nd round: 09/2013 Negotiation teams discussed a wide range of issues which include goods, RoOs, services and investment, public procurement, IPRs, trade remedies and trade and sustainable development. The discussions helped both parties to better understand the proposed draft texts submitted by both sides
Next Round	Not defined	Not defined	-	-
Principal Aspects and Sectors (according to the EU Commission)	Services, government procurement, vehicles, sustainable development, IPRs, investment protection	Vehicles, government procurement, investment, IPRs	Government procurement, RoOs, vehicles, non-tariff barriers, energy, IPRs, finance, electronics, textiles, investment protection	Investment protection, government procurement, IPRs, competition, regulatory issues, pharmaceuticals and sustainable development
CIRFS' Position	Defensive interests. Some possible export opportunities if all forms of trade barriers in India are genuinely removed	In principal in favour but not accepting rules of origin based on Pan-Euro-Med Euratex Compromise	The Philippines already benefits from GSP+ status (i.e. 0%) since December 2014	To be watched

	MALAYSIA	INDONESIA	SINGAPORE	VIETNAM
State of Play	Ongoing negotiations	Ongoing negotiations	Negotiations concluded	Negotiations concluded
Starting Date	10/2010	09/2016	03/2010	06/2012
(Tentative) End Date	Not defined	Not defined	10/2014	02/2016
Last Round/ Next Steps	8th round: 09/2012 03/2017: agreement in principle to re-launch the negotiations but still under discussion	4th round: 02/2018 The process of preparing respective market access offers on goods and services is ongoing with a view to exchange these in the near future. On RoOs, work continued and the next step will be to move to Product Specific Rules, which may be proposed by the next round. The EP plans to ban palm oil-based biofuels from renewable energy support schemes is complicating the negotiations	On 16/05/2017, the European Court of Justice ruled that the EU will have to secure approval from national parliaments in order to finalise the FTA. The EC is planning to send the long-finalized accord to Member States for examination after it is adopted by the College of Commissioners on 17/04/2018. MEPs have been pressing the EC to make sure the agreement can be ratified by the EP this autumn	The agreement inked with Vietnam in 2015 is still not ready for ratification. Its translation and legal scrubbing would hopefully be finalized by summer. RoOs applying: standard double transformation rules
Next Round	Not defined	Not defined	-	-
Principal Aspects and Sectors (according to the EU Commission)	Services, vehicles, textiles	Environment protection, investment protection, government procurement, anticorruption, vehicles	Electronic equipment, textiles, services, investment, IPRs	Vehicles, textiles, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, government procurement, IPRs, services, investment (ICS), sustainable development
CIRFS' Position	Defensive interests. For most of the fibre types for which the EU is a large exporter, Malaysian duties are already 0%.	Defensive interests. CIRFS closely watches this FTA	Neutral since the EU's MMF main product exported (acetate tow) benefits now from 0% duty	Against. Defensive interests

The EU-South Korea FTA entered into force on July 2011. On November 11, 2016 Ecuador joined the EU-Colombia/Peru FTA already implemented and the provisions of the bilateral chapter on market access entered provisionally into force as of January 1, 2017. Regarding the EU-New Zealand and EU-Australia FTAs, actual negotiations will be launched once the Council adopts the negotiating directives.

European Nonwovens production grows 4.3% and continues to outpace GDP

EDANA, the leading global association serving the nonwovens and related industries, disclosed the results of the annual nonwovens industry survey.

PIERRE WIERTZ
General Manager, Edana

JACQUES PRIGNEAUX
Market Analysis & Economic Affairs Director, Edana

edana
THE VOICE OF NONWOVENS

Providing a comprehensive overview of the sector, the latest statistics demonstrate the industry's drive and durability.

In 2017, nonwovens production in Greater Europe increased in volume by 4.3% to reach 2,544,450 tonnes with a total estimated turnover of around €7,869 million (+5.6%). Total European Union output is now close to 2 million tonnes.

Jacques Prigneaux, EDANA's Market Analysis and Economic Affairs Director elaborated "we continue to see the expected variances within the EU region. Although some established players like France and the Benelux countries were at a standstill, many pushed on from last year with Greece, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovenia, the UK and Ireland all witnessing growth. In Greater Europe as a whole, the standout performers were Turkey, posting a double-digit growth rate, and Russia, where growth exceeded 9%."

Divergent trends were also observed between the various production processes. Wetlaid production recorded the most important growth rate (+10.2%), mainly due to newly installed lines going fully operational in 2017. This type of web-formation now represents 9% of nonwovens produced in Europe. Short-fibre airlaid nonwovens production increased marginally by 1.3% in 2017. The production of polymer-based nonwovens (spunmelt and assimilated) recorded significant growth of 4.2% in tonnage and 4.3% in sqm. This type of fabric confirmed its leading position in the European nonwovens industry, with 41.0% of the market in weight and 65.0% in surface area. The total output of spunmelt products reached 1,056,494 tonnes (48,448 mio sqm) in 2017. Drylaid nonwovens reached 1,056,742 tonnes, representing a 3.6% increase in tonnage.

Although the primary main end-use for nonwovens continues to be the hygiene market, with a 29.8% market share by weight, significant growth areas for nonwovens were recorded in other sectors; medical (+13.2%), automotive (+13%) and electronic materials (+21%). Nonwovens sales to the personal care wipes market, flat in 2016, increased again last year posting growth of 5.4% in tonnes and 5.7% in surface area.

Jacques Prigneaux added "the whole EDANA team would like to thank participating companies for their valued input to our annual survey. This data, combined with continuous monitoring of the industry, ensures EDANA statistics are a valuable planning and benchmarking tool for all our member companies."

Pierre Wiertz, General Manager of EDANA said "for over 40 years, the annual EDANA statistics – the most comprehensive available – have proved a vital source of business intelligence for our member companies, offering unparalleled insight into the industry thanks to direct input from producers and exhaustive intelligence."

A report with a detailed breakdown of the annual statistics is available exclusively to EDANA member companies – a valued benefit of membership of the network. Members can also access comprehensive figures for 2017 through the EDANA Statistics App (available on both IOS and Android and at http://edanastatapp.org). ■

About EDANA
EDANA helps its members to design their future, serving more than 250 companies in the nonwovens and related industries, across over 30 countries. Its mission is to create the foundation for sustainable growth of the nonwovens and related industries through active promotion, education and dialogue.

Find out more at:
edana.org

Overview of polypropylene and polyethylene production, consumption and trade

CATHERINE WAGNEUR

Head of Statistics Department, CIRFS

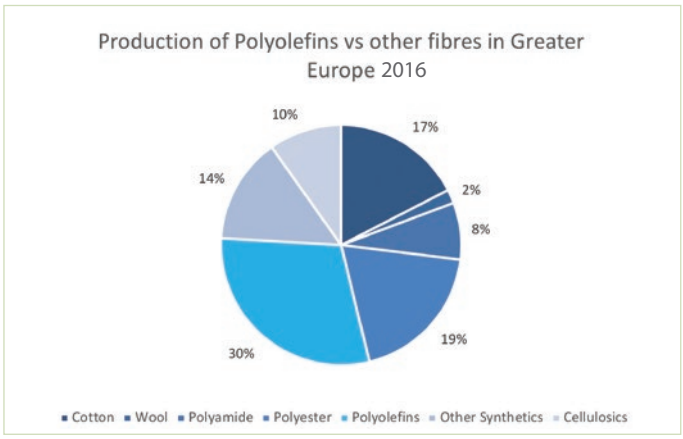
CANDIDE DUFLOUCQ

Assistant Statistics Department, CIRFS

Production and Consumption

Europe is the largest producer

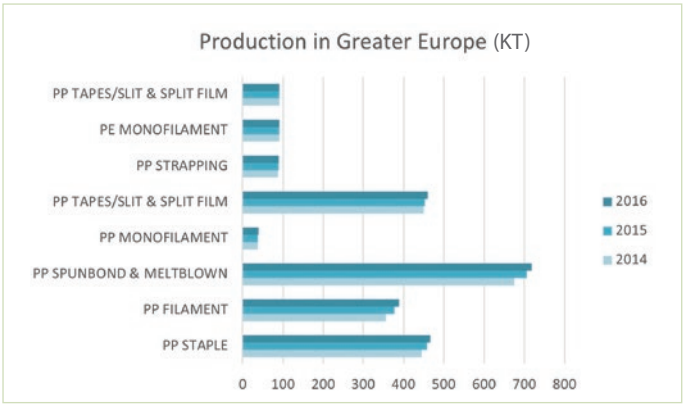
In 2016, Greater Europe, including EU28 and Turkey, was the largest producer of polyolefin followed by China and the United States. Together, they cover half of the World's production. 30% of the fibres produced in Europe are polyolefins.



Source: CIRFS

The biggest volumes (31%) concern polypropylene spunbond & meltblown, mainly used in hygienic and medical products. Polypropylene staple represents 20% of the European production, mainly used in nonwovens for medical and hygienic goods but also by the carpet industry. Polypropylene tapes, slit and split films follow with almost 20% of the production as well.

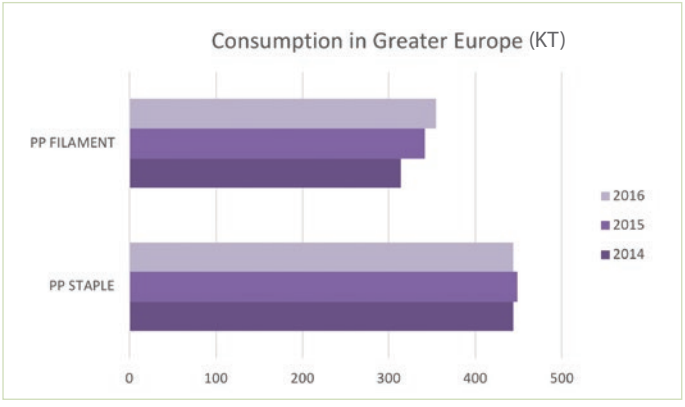
Turkey covers a bit more than a quarter of the European production of polyolefin and for polypropylene filament only, it reaches 60%.



Source: EATP/CIRFS

European Consumption

Polypropylene filament consumption grew by 3.8% in 2016, after an increase by 8.7% in 2015, while consumption of polypropylene staple slightly decreased by -0.9% to go back to the level of 2014.



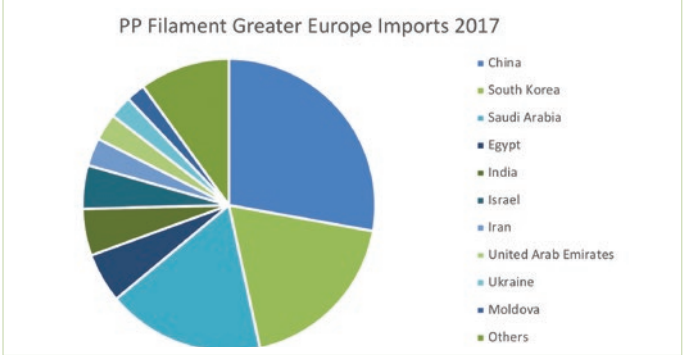
Source: EATP/CIRFS

Trade

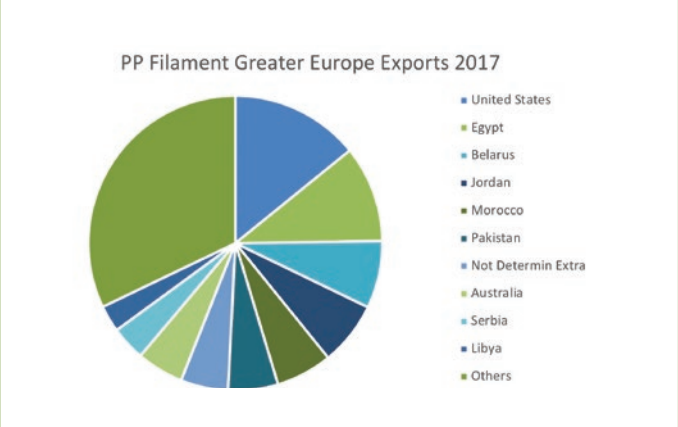
Polypropylene Filament Imports

89% of European trade is intra-European.

Total extra European imports of polypropylene filament were 15.5 KT in 2017, of which 28% came from China (4.3 KT), this is 92% more than in 2016. South Korea was the second main origin of European imports with 2.9 KT, a 15% decrease compared to 2016. Saudi Arabia follows covering 17% of the imports or 2.7 KT.



Overview of polypropylene and polyethylene production, consumption and trade



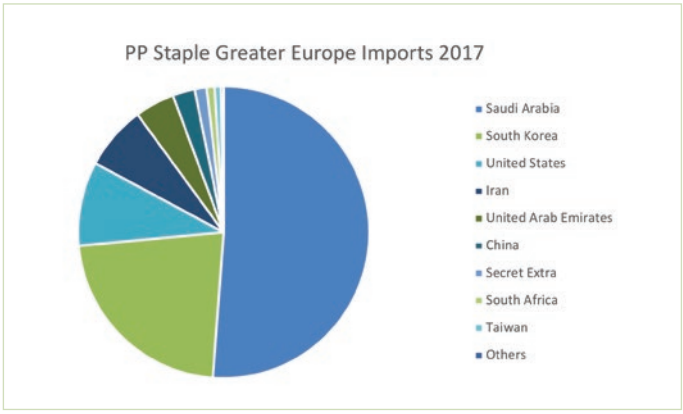
Polypropylene Filament Exports

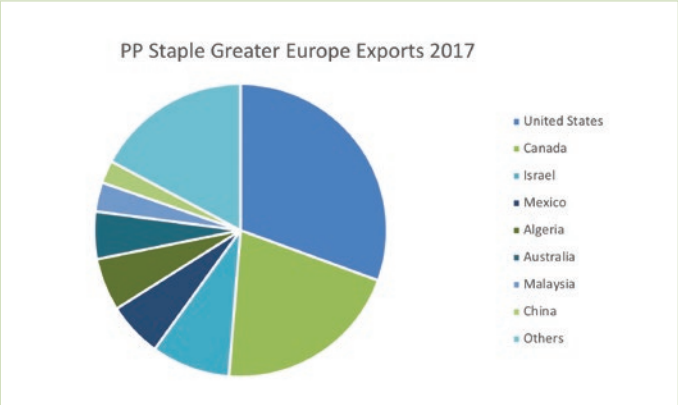
In 2017, Europe exported 7.0 KT of polypropylene filament to the USA, 7% more than in 2016. With 5.2 KT, exports to Egypt represented more than 10% of the extra European exports last year, and doubled compared to the year before. Belarus (3.6 KT), Jordan (3.4 KT) and Morocco (3.0 KT) are the following major destinations of the European exports of polypropylene filament. In total, Europe exported 49.2 KT last year.

Polypropylene Staple Imports

Saudi Arabia (15.3 KT), South Korea (6.7 KT) and the USA (2.8 KT) were the three main countries of origin of European imports of polypropylene staple in 2017, followed by Iran (2.1 KT) and the UAE (1.3 KT).

Greater Europe imported 29.8 KT of polypropylene staple in 2017, 7.7% more than the year before.





Polypropylene Staple Exports

Extra European exports of polypropylene staple reached 36.5 KT last year. That is 3.4% less than the previous year. The main destinations were the USA (11.2 KT, 3% increase), Canada (7.6 KT), Israel (3.2 KT) and Mexico (2.2 KT). Together, they cover 66% of the exports in 2017.

It must be noted that exports to Mexico increased by 40%.

For detailed information on trade statistics, please contact Catherine Wagneur (**wag@cirfs.org**) or Candide Duflocq (**duf@cirfs.org**)

BISFA and its activities

DR ALI AKDAG

Head of Technical and Environmental Department, CIRFS
Secretary General, BISFA

What is BISFA?

BISFA is the international association for the standardisation of synthetic fibres and it is now integrated in CIRFS. Its secretary General is Dr Ali Akdag.

BISFA establishes the terminology of man-made fibres to improve a continuous relation between company, customer and consumer. BISFA implements technical rules for man-made fibres and yarns, as well as provides terms of delivery that have to be met.

BISFA & Generic Names of fibres

What are generic fibre names?

Fibers and textiles play an important role in the European market. The generic names for textile fibres are commonly used for customs and textile product labelling that has to be in line with the European legislation No 1007/2011. This regulation, commonly known as Textile Regulation, concerns textile names and related labelling and marking of textile products.

The Textile Regulation covers products at all stages of the supply chain. It states that textile products that are sold in the EU have to be labelled or marked so information about their fibre composition must be provided. However, it does not specify any information requirements concerning:

- the producer or importer
- the presence of substances likely to be harmful to human health
- the materials and methods used in manufacturing textile products.
- instructions or warnings to the consumer about using textile products.

How to apply for a new generic fibre name

Producers are responsible for the application for a new generic fibre name at the European Commission. BISFA is able to help and support the application. A generic name can cover a range of products but must refer to the chemistry, the technologies used and the fibre properties. Following publication in the Official Journal, the name is included in the BISFA generic classification of fibres. This is published in the BISFA booklet "Terminology of Man-made Fibres". New generic fibre names are restricted to the products which are manufactured commercially. New fibres at the development stage are excluded.

At the request of European Commission (in particular Directorate General Enterprise) BISFA provides its support and expertise within its guidelines for the introduction of new generic fibre names.

What else can BISFA help you with?

BISFA is active in the following areas:

- Publication of new and revised booklets of man-made fibres, in order to further establish the terminology, test methods, delivery conditions and other technical rules and also to further improve communication between companies, customers and consumers.
- Support of the applicants in their request for new generic names.
- Continue to play an active role in international standardization organizations like CEN, ISO in order to promote its methods and terminology.
- Advice to the European Commission responsible for textile labelling in order to promote its methods and terminology.
- Ad-hoc advice in disputes or at request.

BISFA BOOKLETS

Test methods for fibres and yarns

- A principle aim of BISFA is to establish standard methods of testing and rules for the classification and nomenclature of man-made fibres. These should be the basis for fair trading practices. The methods of manufacture used allow a variety of new materials to be produced. It is therefore necessary to establish standardized principles and analytical tools to ensure harmonious technical and commercial relationships both nationally and internationally.
- As new fibre products appear, BISFA endeavours to establish new rules and methodologies. The details of the test methods used are given in BISFA testing methods booklets. The testing methods booklets are available as PDF.

To order your copy please contact the CIRFS Secretariat (secretariat@cirfs.org)

DORNBIRN 2018 - CIRFS Supports Dornbirn Global Fiber Congress

This year's Dornbirn Global Fibers Congress (former Dornbirn-MFC) will be held from September 12 until September 14, 2018.

DORNBIRN GFC
GLOBAL FIBER CONGRESS

The congress is organized by the Austrian Fibers Institute based in Vienna and offers a unique platform for the international textile experts to meet and exchange views and interest on fibres and textiles. More information on the registration for the congress can be found on **www.dornbirn-gfc.com**

This year the Dornbirn-GFC will cover the following themes:

- Fiber Innovations
- Transportation and Mobility
- Recycling - Circular Economy
- Energy-Generation and -Storage
- Surface Modification and Additive Technologies

CIRFS Plans to have a stand in the exhibition area @ Dornbirn GFC.

European Synthetic Turf Organisation

NATASJA FAELENS
CIRFS, ESTO

ESTO appoints new Executive Chairman

After 8 years as Executive Chairman of ESTO in a part time capacity, Nigel Fletcher will leave his role as of June 30, 2018.

Above: **Nigel Fletcher**, Executive Chairman ESTO.

> Nigel leaves ESTO in a strong and stable condition being prepared for the future challenges of the synthetic turf market and on behalf of the Council I want to thank him for all the work done throughout the last 8 years.
>
> Friedemann Söll
> ESTO Vice President.

Nigel Fletcher comments:

"8 years is a long time as an Executive Chairman and I have appreciated the opportunity to build up ESTO from its near beginnings, developing and implementing a long-term strategic plan, which has successful ridden the financial crisis and market crisis. Together with the ESTO Council, we have built up a strong foundation for further successes, which will in the future focus more on the technical and EU aspects. Using my experience and expertise on start-ups I have enjoyed the journey, which like any start up journey has more downs than ups. Leaving the ESTO organization in a stronger, stable condition and more optimistic about the future is my legacy to the synthetic turf industry."

Friedemann Söll, long-term ESTO Council Member and ESTO Vice President comments:

"Under the Chairmanship of Nigel Fletcher, the European Synthetic Turf Organisation developed into a powerful and well respected organization within Europe. The restructuring of the membership organization, the professional marketing campaign and implementation of the ESTO Vision 2020 have been the most important milestones of his ESTO management career. By reactivating the collaboration with sports associations he has strengthened the attention towards synthetic turf and the respect of the work done for the improvement of synthetic turf within our industry also. He leaves the ESTO organization in a strong and stable condition being prepared for the future challenges of the synthetic turf market and on behalf of the Council I want to thank him for all the work done throughout the last 8 years."

Nigel Fletcher will be succeeded by Stefan Diderich. During his long career in the turf industry, Stefan has held various positions in sales, marketing and general management. Stefan has been an active ESTO member during his periods at both TenCate Grass and Bonar Yarns and has also served as a council member of the STC (Synthetic Turf Council), the US counterpart of ESTO.

CIRFS handles the secretariat for ESTO

ESTO focuses on education and promotion of synthetic turf

Find out more at **www.theESTO.com**

ESTO signs MoU with STC

At the AMI Grass Yarn and Tufters' Forum held in Barcelona from 9th to 11th of April, ESTO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with STC, the Synthetic Turf Council which is the North-American counterpart of ESTO, to work more closely together on issues of common concern and align activities in areas of mutual interest.

From discussions held between representatives from ESTO and STC, it became clear that it is in the interest of both organisations to try to combine their complementary strengths to further enhance the support to the membership and to be able to represent the industry around the world.

A task force composed of representatives from both organisations will start working on the details of the agreement over the next weeks.

Left to Right: **Friedemann Söll** (ESTO Vice-President), **Stefan Diderich** (ESTO's newly appointed Executive Chairman) and **Dan Bond** (STC President)

ESTO Congress 2018

September 4th 2018, Murcia, Spain

This year, the ESTO Congress will be organized at the fantastic La Manga resort in Murcia, Spain on September 4.

The different ESTO Working Groups on infill, shockpad, maintenance, landscaping, yarn and environment will meet in the morning.

In the afternoon, some high-level presentations have been scheduled.

An informal BBQ will close off the day.

The full programme can be viewed on the ESTO website **www.theesto.com**.

Congress is open to members and non-members.

Circular Economy in Textiles and Clothing

Being both close to consumers and instrumental to other sectors, the European textile and apparel industry is in a privileged position to deliver and prosper in circular economy.

MAURO SCALIA
Director Sustainable Businesses, Euratex

EURATEX
THE EUROPEAN APPAREL AND TEXTILE CONFEDERATION

Dominated by small and medium sized (SME) enterprises, hundreds of its companies have successfully innovated and adapted their business models to enhance competitiveness and to deal with the change. It is evident that Europe already has examples of a textile value chain value chain capable of recycling fabrics, regenerating fibres and maximising resources in production.

Some of the success case studies have been published on an online platform, showcasing evidence of what is already being done on circular economy* among European companies and steering the policy dialogue to enable a smooth transition towards circulary for the textile and apparel industry. To enable companies to fully prosper in circular economy and adapt to the transition, several key factors need to happen:

Harmonization of end-of-waste criteria at EU level:
such definition would facilitate textile waste to become secondary raw material and a valuable resource for further use. It would also enable shipment of textile post-consumption and post-production waste materials from one Member State to the other where it could be used for further processing.

Stimulating collection and demand for recycled materials:
there are numerous examples of voluntary initiatives by governments or companies that are able to set up a market and a supply chain for recycled textile materials. Legal and fiscal instruments can complement these measures but shall not replace them. Bearing in mind the "one size does not fit all" concept, different recycling potential and treatment costs of materials can be adapted for different value chains.

Green public procurement (GPP) as a booster of circular economy:
being one of the major consumers, public authorities have the opportunity to lead by example through supporting GPP. This has an enormous potential to boost innovation for the circular economy, help costs reduction through scale economy and build up an EU wide value chain

Investment in textile waste technologies:
private and public investments combined with appropriate regulatory policy and business initiatives would facilitate scaling up of mechanical/chemical recycling technologies. Moreover, investment in chemical detection technologies would provide for better tracking of chemicals of concerns that would benefit consumers and recycling/recovery investors

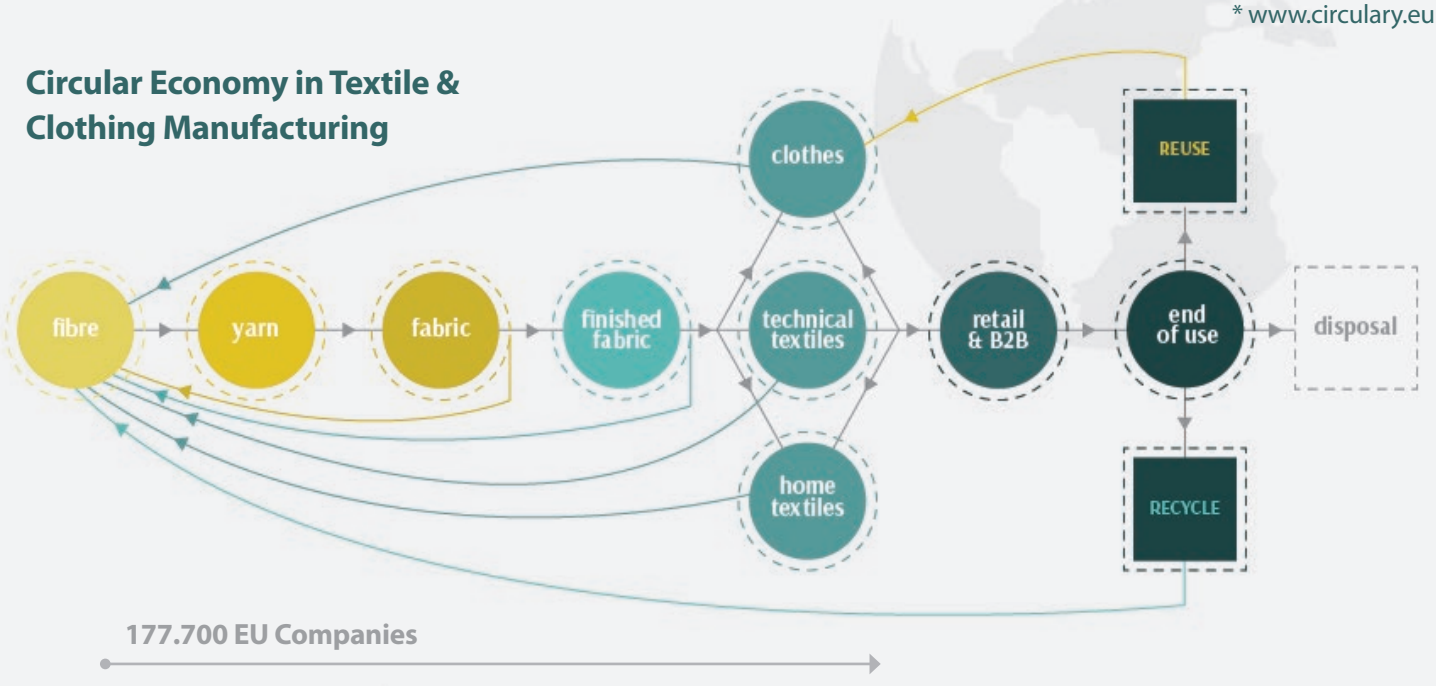
Microplastics:
5 industry organisations (EURATEX, EOG, CIRFS, AISE, FESI) have joined efforts in a voluntary pledge to address the issue of microplastic release from the washing of synthetic clothes with one of the first and most important deliverables being to develop a proposal for international standardised test methods to identify and quantify microfibre release. Such outcome would finally close the research gaps originating from theof a global and unified testing method, as a first step to pursue solutions.

Drive sustainable consumer behviour:
protecting consumers from "greenwashing" and encouraging positive consumption behviour shall ultimately reward the business and policy makers. ■

CIRFS is a member of Euratex

* www.circulary.eu

Circular Economy in Textile & Clothing Manufacturing



TiO2 and REACH

Titanium dioxide (TiO2) has been used for around 100 years as a critical component in a vast number of products, and continues to be used in new, innovative applications.

SILVIA RUIZ CASÁN
Sector Group Manager, CEFIC

On 12 October 2017, the Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published its Scientific Opinion recommending the classification TiO2 as a suspected carcinogen (category 2) by inhalation; this opinion is now being discussed at the EU level. The recommended classification is not based on new science but rather on one extreme exposure animal study of unbound particulate TiO2 respirable to the lungs. That study is contrary to the findings of human data of TiO2 worker exposure, which spans several decades. With this in mind, were the recommendation to be approved, it would not enhance any human health benefits or further protect workers or consumers, but severely impact a wide range of industry sectors.

TiO2 is essential to an innovative and performing industry

TiO2 is the highest volume and most versatile globally-used white pigment, and no other pigment comes close to matching its exceptionally high opacity and bright whiteness. TiO2 is a key material in sustainable solutions thanks to its resilience to heat, light and weathering, alongside its photocatalytic activity. These properties make it a very efficient option for applications such as medical devices, air conditioning filters, sanitary ware surfaces and textiles.

Given its extensive benefits and the absence of direct substitutes, classifying TiO2 would undeniably have an immense negative impact.

The EU classification process could negatively impact a wide number of industry sectors

The recommendation to classify TiO2 would have grave social and economic effects on several industry sectors such as paper, plastics, paints, cosmetics and automotive sectors. This is because most downstream legislation does not recognise or differentiate according to the route of exposure. Hence, once TiO2 is classified as a suspected carcinogen, the regulatory impacts of classification would trickle down through different sectoral legislation independent of the potential route of exposure.

Furthermore, a classification would heavily impact wider EU policy objectives, notably the transition to a circular economy, given that waste streams containing more than 1% of TiO2 would be deemed hazardous. This means that waste streams such as plastics to standard construction waste and existing take-back and recycling business models would all be disrupted.

Regulatory developments are reaching a crucial point

EU Member States have been scrutinising the recommended classification in the meetings of the Competent Authorities for REACH and CLP (CARACAL). All parties have recognised the complexity of the case and the many possible ramifications. These discussions have raised questions about whether the CLP regulation is the appropriate tool to address the perceived risks associated not only with TiO2, but with a broader group of dust substances.

Member States' authorities will continue to meet and discuss in the next few months and the European Commission is expected to make its final proposal sometime this summer. A decision will then be made jointly by the Member States. The Titanium Dioxide Manufacturers Association (TDMA) is very much involved in this process and is committed to working closely with the relevant authorities in order to find an appropriate solution to address this situation. The industry is also undertaking a state-of-the-art science programme, in consultation with regulatory authorities, to bring new evidence forward. ■

CIRFS is working in close collaboration with TDMA on TiO2

Chemistry Can Provide Sustainable Solutions

The chemical industry has an important part to play in maintaining our society's growth and prosperity, but also in our transition to a more sustainable economy.

MARCO MENSINK
Director General, CEFIC

cefic

Sustainable development has long been one of the fundamental objectives of the European Union. The EU is one of the world's driving forces of ambitious climate policy. The European chemical industry has committed to fully embracing the challenge of helping to provide solutions for a climate friendly, resource efficient and circular society.

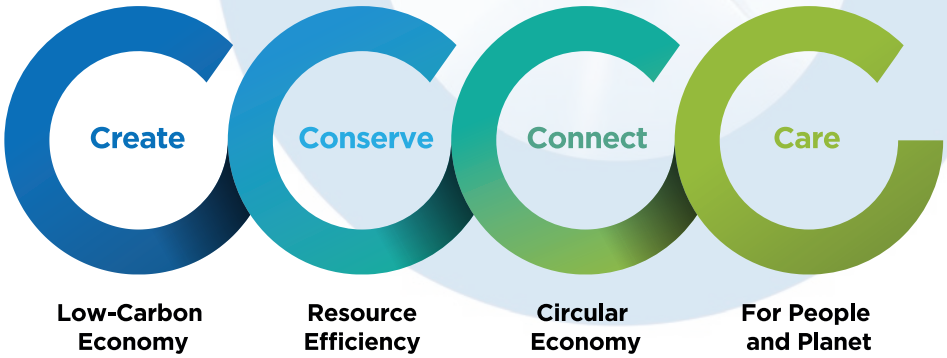
In 2017, Cefic launched its Sustainability report, which outlines our vision and ambition across four areas – transition to a low-carbon economy, increasing resource efficiency, minimising waste and caring for people and planet. The report also identifies the UN Sustainable Development Goals that can be attained with the help of the chemical industry.

The publication of this report is not an end in itself but rather an opportunity to start a conversation with our key stakeholders on how the European chemical industry can facilitate the transition to a more sustainable society. The messages that we want to send are "Chemistry Can create a better future. Sustainability is not just a policy commitment for us, it's in our DNA".

> Chemistry Can create a better future. Sustainability is not just a policy commitment for us, it's in our DNA.

Sustainability is Good for Society and Business

For centuries, the chemical industry has significantly advanced our society through breakthrough innovations in a number of areas from health, hygiene, construction and mobility to agriculture and energy supply. Chemistry also turns raw material into products that we rely on every day. In order to sustain and grow our business, it is just simple logic to truly adapt sustainable business practices and deliver on the UN Sustainable Development Goals at the same time. ■



Chemistry can

Through cutting-edge innovation, developed by our members, the chemical industry facilitates the transition to a more sustainable society. Examples of this innovation can be found on our online platform

ChemistryCan.com

Browse this website to learn about some incredible things that our members are doing. Please spread the word across your networks.

Follow us

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chemistrycan.com

CIRFS is a member of CEFIC

CEN and ISO Standardisation

Textile polyolefins and man-made fibres are used in a variety of products in different applications. The developments of new fibre materials and combinations lead to new materials and applications.

KARIN EUFINGER
Standards and Technical Regulations Manager, Centexbel

On the one hand, standards are used for characterising the material, on the other hand for demonstrating its properties and safety for use in a given application. Demonstrating also environmental safety, sustainability and related issue, like re-use and recycling, are gaining importance as well. As a result there is a constant demand for adapting and/or developing new standards.

Textile polyolefin and man-made fibres are covered in different CEN and ISO committees. For one this is done by the general technical committees (TC's) concerning polymer and synthetics base materials (plastics) and general textile products. CEN/TC 249 and ISO/TC 61 cover as general topic 'Plastics', while CEN/TC 248 and ISO/TC 38 cover textile and (general) textile products, with ISO/TC 38 SC 23 dedicated to the characterisation of fibres and yarns.

This includes mechanical, chemical and physical characterisation of the materials as well as selected products. For another there is a variety of committees developing standards for products containing polyolefin and man-made fibres. Specific products are addressed in dedicated product TC's, in some cases they are grouped with non-fibrous products used for similar applications.

A limited overview can be found in the table below, listing a selection of technical committees which cover textile or textile based products. In the case where there is no corresponding CEN or ISO committee, a dash has been added. If there is a deviation between the name of the CEN or the ISO committee, this is also indicated. In some cases, it is an ISO sub-committee (SC) corresponding to a CEN/TC.

Participating in the committees developing and maintaining the standards which are needed to characterise your product, be it a fibre, yarn, textile or finished product is therefore the only way to ensure that the methods described and evaluation criteria chosen are also suitable for your product.

CEN TC	ISO TC	Name
99	-	Wallcoverings
127	92/ SC 4	Fire safety in buildings
134	219	(Resilient, textile and laminate) floor coverings
132	83	Sports, playgrounds and other recreational facilities and equipment
160	94/ SC 4	Protection against Falls, including belts
162	94/ SC 13	Protective Clothing
-	94/ SC 14	Firefighters' personal equipment
168	-	Chains, ropes and webbing
189	221	Geosynthetics
192	-	Fire rescue services
195	142	Air filters/ Cleaning equipment for air and other gases
205	-	Non-active medical devices
217	-	Surfaces for sports areas

Plastics 2030 – PlasticsEurope's Voluntary Commitment

DR ANNE-GAELLE COLLOT
Senior Manager Environmental Affairs,
PlasticsEurope

On 16 January 2018, the Vice-Presidents of the European Commission Jyrki Katainen and Frans Timmermans presented the "European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy", an initiative that supports the transition towards a more circular and resource efficient economy for Europe.

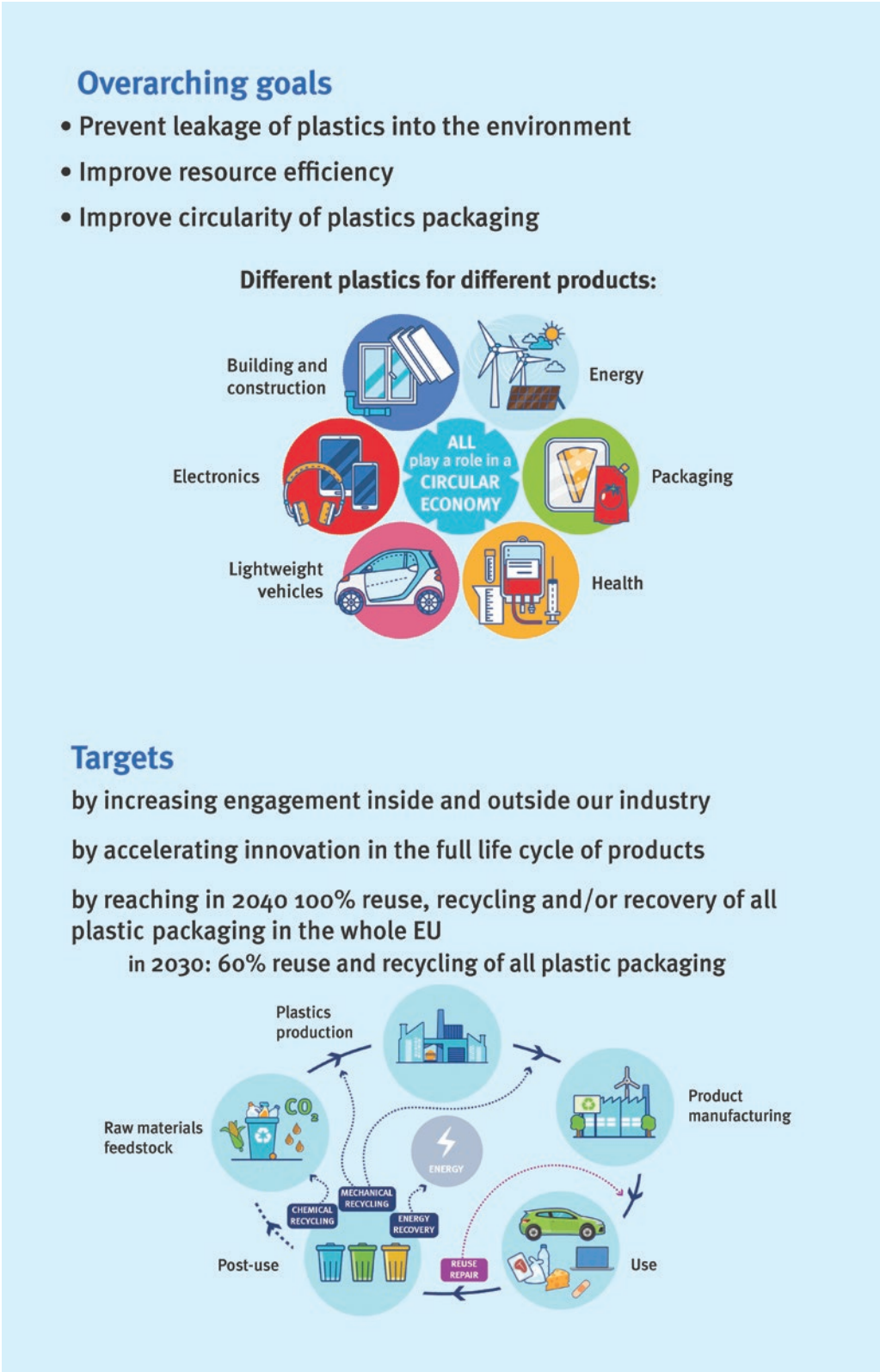
This strategy is based on four main axes: (1) improve the market for recyclates, (2) curb plastic waste and littering, (3) drive innovation towards circular solutions and (4) harness global action.

PlasticsEurope is excited to engage in this transformation towards a new sustainable economic model and supports the creation of a joint vision for a circular Europe. The European plastics manufacturers worked closely with the European institutions on the "Strategy for Plastics" and contributed with the publication of its voluntary commitment document "Plastics 2030". The latter aims to increase circularity and resource efficiency.

The voluntary commitment sets a set of ambitious targets and initiatives that represent the plastics industry contribution to achieve a fully circular and resource efficient Europe.

The European plastics manufacturers are committed to ensure high-rates of re-use and recycling, aiming to reach 60% of plastics packaging re-used and/or recycled by 2030. This will lead to achieve the goal of 100% re-use, recycling and/or recovery of plastics packaging in the EU28, Norway and Switzerland by 2040. PlasticsEurope is strengthening its efforts along the value chain and with public authorities to deliver more sustainable plastics solutions. PlasticsEurope has already established three European Platforms (i.e. ECVM, PCEP and Styrenics Circular Solutions) to accelerate innovation towards more efficient chemical and mechanical recycling.

PlasticsEurope is committed to prevent plastics leakage into the environment. Educational activities throughout Europe are being set up to raise awareness on sustainable consumer behaviour. Operation Clean Sweep®, the industry programme to prevent pellet loss, is increasingly involving the entire value chain. New research activities will focus on knowledge



"Plastics 2030" focuses on
(1) increasing re-use and recycling,
(2) preventing plastics leakage into the environment and
(3) accelerating resource-efficiency.

General commitments

Prevent the leakage of plastics into the environment

- **Prevent littering:** identification and littering prevention solution of most found items into the environment
- **Prevent pellet loss:** Operation Clean Sweep®

Improve resource efficiency and circularity of plastics

- Accelerate research of alternative feedstocks
- Product Life Cycle Inventory: update of datasets every three years
- Extension of waste data collection, including new data on circularity of plastics
- Eco-design guidelines for plastics packaging finalised by 2020
- Support standardisation for quality standards for sorted plastics

Global Initiatives

- **Global Plastics Alliance**
  Marine Litter Solutions: 260+ projects in 35 countries
- **World Plastics Council**
  Support of global initiatives and cooperation with UNEP, G7/G20

Sector-specific commitments

PCEP POLYOLEFIN Circular Economy Platform

- Define design guidelines for packaging
- Encourage demand for recyclates
- Drive R&D of new technologies to convert non mechanically recyclable plastics into feedstock to produce new materials
- Improve mechanical recycling

Styrenics Circular Solutions

- Develop technologies to recycle PS/EPS back into original applications
- Collaborate with value chain to improve collection and sorting systems for packaging waste
- Create an independent structure to finance promising technologies

ecvm Vinyl Circular Solutions

PVC Packaging Platform

- Develop eco-efficient and cost-effective PVC packaging materials, increasing shelf-life for PVC packaged products
- Increase safe and quality PVC recycling, and define targets toward 2030 through VinylPlus®

www.vinylplus.eu

Reporting

Monitoring the progress of the voluntary commitment

- Action plan and time-based performance indicators
- Yearly evaluation provided by independent committee

gaps on the most common plastics items being littered in the marine environment, with a view to identify suitable solutions.

These efforts are complemented with other actions aimed at enhancing plastics' resource efficiency and accelerating innovation for circularity, namely (1) further research into alternative feedstocks, (2) more frequent updates of product Life-Cycle Inventories and Environmental Product Declarations, (3) the publication of extended waste data, 4) new eco-design guidelines for plastics packaging and (5) standardization of industrial best practices and methodologies.

An independent committee composed of academia, the European institutions, PlasticsEurope and civil society will monitor the results of the voluntary commitment following time-based performance indicators and will report the achievement of these objectives with an annual report as of 2019.

"Plastics 2030" confirms the industry's commitment in shaping new sustainable solutions to address global challenges by building a long-term plan for sustainable development. Read more on PlasticsEurope's Voluntary Commitment "Plastics 2030" at **www.plasticseurope.org/en/newsroom/news/plastics-2030**

CIRFS publishes position paper on man-made fibres and marine litter

Man-made fibres (MMF) are used in a large number of textile applications, ranging from clothing, home textiles to industrial and technical applications.

Today, ca. 75% of the fibres used worldwide in the textile industry are MMF. Without man-made fibres it would be impossible to clothe the entire population and to develop most of the technical textile products with different specific functionalities allowing, amongst others, substantial savings in terms of energy and natural resources or emissions to the environment.

The European man-made fibres industry, represented by CIRFS, fully supports the fact that man-made fibre production processes and products should be sustainable from cradle to cradle, including use and end-of-life and that the impact on the environment should be reduced to a minimum.

For over a century man-made fibres have been processed in the textile industry without any significant concerns to human health. Such fibres are produced in Europe by specialist companies with a great degree of attention not only to the health and safety of their employees, but also to the consumer as well as the environment.

Over time, scientists have found that important amounts of plastic parts end up as waste in marine environments, where they degrade into microplastics, mainly through abrasion. Microplastics may also enter marine environments directly from different sources. More recent studies have suggested that synthetic microplastics could be found as debris in marine environments where they may even be ingested by marine species and enter into the food chain.

Human behaviour, inappropriate waste management and insufficient implementation and enforcement of legislation seem to be the main causes of this phenomenon. Thus, the incorrect disposal of certain textile leads them to enter land waters and marine environments where they can degrade into microplastics.

Similarly, when laundering textiles, some small quantities of fibres, natural or man-made, may be shed through mechanical solicitation and even break down further. It appears that these microplastics may not be entirely retained by the filters of washing machines and end up in the sewage. Moreover, studies suggest that many filters in sewage plants may not be entirely efficient, providing for minor release. In addition, sewage sludges containing microplastics may not be properly disposed of.

As a matter of fact, there is no clear methodology to quantify nor to define the phenomenon, resulting in different and sometimes confusing measurements, in which e.g. natural or cellulosic fibres are mixed up with synthetic fibres and where other microplastic particles are mistakenly considered as particles of fibres used in textiles.

N.B.: In this context it is important to note that some man- made fibres are also biodegradable like natural fibres such as fibres made from cellulose.

In the literature, cellulose fibres are called "regenerated" or "man-made" or "wood-based" cellulose fibres. The biodegradability of cellulosic fibres in relevant natural and "man-made" environments is verified by international standards and by certain international certification organizations. Hence they do not contribute to microplastic pollution.

Solutions exist…

Marine Litter is a global issue that needs global action. Regarding fibres, more than three-quarters of the man-made fibres and textile industry are located in Asia (88% of MMF are produced in Asia). A similar ratio applies to imports and production in Europe.

CIRFS has been encouraging to reduce waste in fibre production processes and after final use. It has been collaborating closely with the plastics industry and is a signatory of the Global Declaration on Marine Litter Solutions. Examples of actions undertaken in the man-made fibre sector are numerous, e.g. the recycling of waste PET bottles, the collection and recycling of waste fishing nets, old carpets or ropes into plastics and fibres. CIRFS has also been advocating for textile production processes not to result in a spill of fibres ending up in rivers and oceans. End-of-life textiles should not be disposed of carelessly

There should be no marine litter, and if unavoidable, all efforts should be made to reduce it to a minimum. A structured approach is needed in order to take effective measures.

The issue is complex. As a first step and in order to quantify and assess the origin of textile fibres in marine environments, a reliable analytical method must be developed. Tests need to be undertaken under clean room conditions in order for them not to be biased. A clear distinction should be made between synthetic fibres used in textiles, and other kinds of microplastics. In addition, it should be examined why and how microplastics are carried into marine environments.

Marine litter and microplastics is a global phenomenon and must to be tackled at a global level, all stakeholders in the value chain until the final consumer and to the recycler being fully involved.

Each source of pollution may have its own roadmap for prevention. Appropriate human behaviour, improved infrastructure and processes and the implementation and enforcement of legislation are the key.

(e.g. old fishing nets or ropes should not be thrown into the sea, certain wipes not into the sink). Awareness raising campaigns among the public must be encouraged. In washing machines, filters should be improved in order to retain microplastics, other catchers may be used as well. Other factors such as pre-washing, or the influence of temperature, detergent and fabric softener composition on fibre shedding should be further explored, too.

Correspondingly, filtration in sewage plants should be enhanced. Additional filters could be installed. Besides, sewage sludge should be handled and disposed of in a proper way.

CIRFS
EUROPEAN MAN-MADE FIBRES ASSOCIATION

To find out more about CIRFS' involvement in Circular Economy visit:

www.cirfs.org

CIRFS together with other associations signed a Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter. By signing it CIRFS agrees to:

1. **Contribute to solutions by working in public-private partnerships aimed at preventing marine debris**
2. **Work with the scientific community and researchers to better understand and evaluate the scope, origins and impact of and solutions to marine litter**
3. **Promote comprehensive science-based policies and enforcement of existing laws to prevent marine litter**
4. **Help spread knowledge regarding eco-efficient waste management systems and practices, particularly in communities and countries that border our oceans and watersheds**
5. **Enhance opportunities to recover plastic products for recycling and energy recovery**
6. **Steward the transport and distribution of plastic resin pellets and products from supplier to customer to prevent product loss and encourage our customers to do the same**

Industry unites in the fight against microplastic release from the washing of synthetic textiles

A new industry agreement for the prevention of microplastic release from synthetic textiles washing was officially launched today and endorsed by the European Commission.

The European Textile and Apparel Confederation (EURATEX), the International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products (A.I.S.E.), the European Outdoor Group (EOG), the European Man Made Fibres Association (CIRFS) and the Federation of European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI) struck an agreement to address the release of microplastic in the aquatic environment.

The group of European industry associations, representing the global value chain of garments and their associated maintenance, agreed that viable solutions need to be found to the release of microplastic into global marine and freshwater during the entire lifecycle of textiles; which is highlighted as one of the sources of microplastic.

In the agreement the associations commit to a cross-industry coordination and stakeholder support through a set of effective and economically feasible measures:

1. **Define common measurement methods**
   Agree on reliable and harmonised test methods to identify and quantify the type of microplastic present in water and in the environment
2. **Share Knowledge**
   Call for collaboration across all relevant industry sectors and other organisations, including research, to share information, define common priorities to fill knowledge gaps and advise on mid and long-term measures
3. **Industrial research**
   Support and participate in industrial research activities to investigate feasible options to tackle the release of microplastic and to contribute towards addressing a global problem.

The industry associations believe that through mutual work and better understanding of the issue feasible solutions can be found that can be effectively applied by industry, consumers, and authorities.

Through the agreement the industries would like to tackle this issue that is potentially affecting billions of people worldwide. The first half of 2018 foresees the mapping of actions on test methods and on-going research, discussions on potential harmonisation methodologies and conceivable cross-industry collaborations. The goal, for the end of 2018, will be to draft a proposal for the European Commission. This proposal aims to fill knowledge gaps to identify and quantify sources of microplastic pollutions in order to work on possible solutions.

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fvh@cirfs.org

A·I·S·E

CIRFS
EUROPEAN MAN-MADE FIBRES ASSOCIATION

EUROPEAN OUTDOOR GROUP

EURATEX
THE EUROPEAN APPAREL AND TEXTILE CONFEDERATION

FESI
Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry

CIRFS Executive Seminar

30 May 2018

"The Hotel", Brussels

PROGRAMME

10:00—10:15	**Registration & Welcome Coffee**
10:15—13:00	**Open session & CIRFS Executive Seminar — part 1**
10:15—10:25	***Introduction*** by Mr. Necat Altin (President, CIRFS)
10:25—10:55	***"The Transatlantic Economic Relationship in 2019-20"*** by Mr. Peter Chase (Senior Fellow, The German Marshall Fund to the United States)
10:55—11:25	***"Reach after 2018"*** by Dr. Erwin Annys (Director REACH / Chemicals Policy, CEFIC)
11:25—11:40	**COFFEE BREAK**
11:40—12:10	***"Synthetic Fibre Trends (Production Region Rebalancing?)"*** by Mr. Darrel Collier (Business Manager Synthetic Fibres PET Resin, Tecnon OrbiChem)
12:10—12:40	***"Global investment – Local impact "*** by Mrs. Sarah Rae (Vice president Olefins and Derivatives , Argus)
12:40—13:00	***"The European Textile Machinery Industry: economics, technological trends and representation "*** by Mr. Jeroen Vits (Member Executive Committee, Cematex)
13:00—14:00	**LUNCH**
14:00—16:00	**CIRFS Executive Seminar — part 2**
14:00—14:30	***"General Outlook for Turkish Textile Industry"*** by Mr. Besim Ozek (Strategy & Business Development Director, BOSSA)
14:30—15:00	***"Circular Economy"*** by Ms. Pamela Ravasio (Head of CSR & Sustainability, European Outdoor Group)
15:00—15:30	***"GDPR is there, Are you Ready?"*** by Ms. Diletta De Cicco (Legal Consultant, Mayer Brown) and Mr. Charles-Albert Helleputte (Partner, Mayer Brown)
15:30—15:40	**CLOSING REMARKS**
15:40—16:00	**COFFEE & NETWORKING**

This programme may be subject to last minute changes

CIRFS Yearbook 2017

CIRFS is glad to announce the publication of its latest statistical report on developments in the world man-made fibres industry.

The report, "Information on Man-made Fibres", is the 53rd edition of this valuable summary of all available information about this dynamic and growing industry. It gathers data on:

- Production of acrylic, cellulosic, polyamide, polyester, polypropylene, wool and cotton, in the world as a whole and in all the countries for which data exists;
- Consumption and uses;
- World trade in man-made fibres, yarns and fabrics.

CIRFS Director General Frédéric Van Houte comments:

"This CIRFS report shows continued and solid growth of the world's man-made fibres industry while cotton and wool shares stagnate. It confirms the strength of global production of man-made fibres, and their dominant share in world demand for fibres. In 2016, man-made fibres represented 75% of all textile fibres produced worldwide, this percentage going up to 81% in Europe."

In case of further questions regarding the CIRFS statistical yearbook 2017 or to order a copy please contact the CIRFS Statistical Department - Catherine Wagneur - Statistics Manager and Candide Duflocq - Assistant Statistics Manager; email: duf@cirfs.org.

The 54th Edition of the CIRFS Statistical Report will be available in September 2018.

Price -
Electronic copy (pdf)
330 euro

FREE for CIRFS Members

CIRFS wishes to thank all contributors to this issue of Fibre Focus.

CIRFS
EUROPEAN MAN-MADE FIBRES ASSOCIATION

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