

Further information on membership conditions and fees is available from the secretariat.



WHY EVERY EUROPEAN MAN-MADE FIBRE PRODUCER SHOULD BE A CIRFS MEMBER

In today's highly complex and competitive world, information, contacts and the ability to influence public authorities are necessary for success.

The man-made fibres industry in Europe is a large sector – ca. **€ 10 billion** sales in **2013** (including polyolefins) – but even so its influence can only be fully asserted if it is united and represented by a strong and professional representative association.

CIRFS: European Man-made Fibres Association is the man-made fibres industry representative body at European level.

It covers the full range of man-made fibres: acetate, acrylic, aramid, lyocell, modal, polyamide, polyester, viscose and a wide range of specialist fibres. Through the integration of the European Association for Textile Polyolefins into the CIRFS structure, it also covers polypropylene and polyethylene fibres.

Founded in 1950, it is well-established and highly regarded both in Europe and internationally. Its members account for over 85% of European man-made fibres production.

It provides its member companies with valuable **market information** not available from other sources, or only available at an impossibly high cost. It organises **regular meetings**, with opportunities for networking, participating in

forming CIRFS policies and priorities, hearing expert market analyses and forecasts, and listening to presentations by external consultants.

Through its affiliated organisation, BISFA, it sets industry standards and test methods.

- It publicises and promotes the good **sustainability** performance of man-made fibres, and the essential role that they play in protecting the environment.
- It represents the industry's interests to the **public authorities**, on a wide range of trade, competition, technical and regulatory questions.
- It defends the industry against distorted trade conditions.
- It promotes the maintenance and development of Europe's leading role in man-made fibres **innovation**.
- It acts as the fibre sector's interface with the representative structures of the European **textile** and **chemical** industry.
- And much else.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP?

Defence of Industry Interests in Global Trade

Support CIRFS capability to take initiatives such as:

- Anti-dumping or anti-subsidy actions to combat trade distortions
- Attacks on unfair or illegal trade barriers in third-countries' markets
- Defence of man-made fibre interests at WTO level, free trade agreements' negotiations and various European trade regulations.
- Through your input into CIRFS policy-making, ensure that your specific concerns are taken into account.
- Contribute to industry solidarity – the necessity for successful actions, and the basis for the high reputation of CIRFS with the European authorities.

Defence of Industry Interests in European Competition

- Help maintain strict controls on state aid by national governments, so as to prevent distortions of competition
- Ensure that any unreasonable technical barriers to trade caused by European or national regulations are fought by CIRFS

Defence of Industry Interests in Environmental Regulation

- Receive regular updates of new European regulatory proposals
- Participate in CIRFS policy formation in Ecological Issues Committee
- Contribute to CIRFS actions to ensure that man-made fibre interests are taken into account on issues such as:
 - CO2 Emissions trading (CIRFS has secured advantageous terms for man-made fibres as a sector at risk of "carbon leakage")
 - Support during the REACH process (registration, authorisation and advocacy for proper calcification of substances)
 - Revision of the regulations on Industrial Emissions (IED, IPPC)
 - Occupational exposure limits to chemicals
 - Waste and recycling issues
 - Control of bioactive substances (Biocidal Products Regulation)
- And much more.



DEMONSTRATING SUSTAINABILITY AND MARKET INFORMATION



Demonstrating Sustainability

- Benefit from CIRFS work to demonstrate the sustainability and excellent environmental performance of man-made fibres in Europe
- Receive full detailed results from CIRFS work programme as it develops (inventory of all information, eco-profiles, life cycle analyses...)
- Exchange views with other CIRFS members in the Ecological Issues Committee.

Market Information

- Get access to the CIRFS global database (68 countries) of import/export information, giving detailed figures on trade volumes and values of all major competitor countries as well as Europe itself



- Receive regular updates of production trends in Europe and many other parts of the world
- For selected products, participate in the CIRFS Data Group system, giving more detailed market information
- Through CIRFS textile contacts, obtain access to latest data on textile production trends
- Read latest press reports on man-made fibres from the CIRFS global press database, covering articles appearing worldwide
- Benefit from the CIRFS analysis of developments in competing natural fibres
- Hear presentations and forecasts from the CIRFS statistical experts, and from external consultants
- Receive quarterly Activity Report and annual Statistical Yearbook.



Encouragement of Innovation

- Receive information about European funding possibilities and participation in cooperative research programmes
- Participate in CIRFS networking programme with research institutes and universities throughout Europe
- Exchange ideas on innovation management techniques with other fibre companies
- Support the CIRFS sponsorship of the Dornbirn Man-made Fibers Congress, and have the privilege of proposing company developments for presentation
- Participate in the CIRFS Research Committee.

Technical Standards and Test Methods

- Benefit from the BISFA work setting standards and test methods for almost all types of man-made fibres
- Ensure that your own company's interests are taken into account in revising standards



- Use reference to BISFA standards in conditions of sale, setting neutral benchmarks to avoid commercial disputes
- Use BISFA's expertise to obtain a new officially recognised fibre generic name in the event of any relevant new developments in your company.

Links to Chemicals and Textiles

- Benefit from exchange with suppliers to the man-made fibres industry through CIRFS membership with CEFIC, the European chemical industry association, and cooperation with PlasticsEurope, the European plastics industry association
- Benefit from CIRFS membership of EURATEX, the European textile and apparel association, giving good information on textile developments and allowing CIRFS to influence textile policies
- Participate in meetings organised by CIRFS to encourage networking between fibre and textile producers.

“CIRFS IS AN INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION THAT OFFERS A NEUTRAL PLATFORM FOR ITS MEMBERS TO MEET AND DISCUSS WITHIN STRICT ANTITRUST RULES.”



Industry Meetings

Participate in the twice-yearly CIRFS General Meetings, attended by member company CEOs or senior commercial executives, with interesting and targeted presentations and with networking opportunities.

Be represented on any of the CIRFS committees or working groups of special interest to your company (standards, flammability, energy, ecological issues, research, technical, economic policy, trends analysis).



Assistance from CIRFS Staff

- CIRFS staff members are highly experienced and professional, and are always ready to help members
- They can answer questions in more detail than appears in general publications
- They can use their extensive network of contacts with the European authorities to help member companies find the right official to help them with specific company interests, and will back up these contacts if no conflicts of interest are involved.



Assurance of Respect for Anti-trust Rules

- CIRFS has strict anti-trust guidelines, which are applied to all meetings and to all information circulated
- These ensure that any risk of anti-trust issues arising from CIRFS activities is very unlikely
- CIRFS uses external legal advice in the event of any uncertainty.

How is CIRFS organised?

The CIRFS secretariat is based in Brussels. It has a small but highly professional and dedicated staff: a Director General, an economist, a technical and environmental expert, two statisticians, and two support staff.

CIRFS has a President, chosen from among the member companies, serving for a period of three years.

It has a Board of 10 representatives, chosen from among member companies on a regularly rotating basis.

The top decision-making body is the General Assembly of all member companies, meeting twice a year.

All meetings take place in Brussels.



What are the Conditions for Membership?

Any company producing (extruding) man-made fibres in Europe, in countries defined by the General Assembly, is eligible for membership.

Currently, members are accepted from the European Union, Switzerland and other countries in South East Europe, Turkey, Belarus and Russia. The country of ownership of the parent company is not taken into account – only the requirement to be extruding in Europe.

Companies are required to include in their CIRFS membership all of their relevant European production activities.

Member companies are asked to participate in CIRFS meetings and activities to an extent compatible with their resources and interests. Participation in General Assemblies is normally expected to be at CEO level, although replacement by other senior executives is acceptable if there are specific reasons why the CEO cannot be present.

An annual subscription is payable.



What are the Costs of Membership?

The annual subscription has four parts:

- A fixed fee paid by all companies, irrespective of size
- A variable fee, linked to the volume of production of man-made fibres in Europe in the previous year
- A fee to cover activities directly linked to activities with the European authorities, payable only in respect of production in the EU countries
- A fee to cover the BISFA activities on standards and test methods.

Details of the current fee levels are available on request.



Information on CIRFS

Extensive information is available on www.cirfs.org

Contact CIRFS

For further information on membership, please contact the CIRFS Director General, Frédéric Van Houte:

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