

CIRFS



Become a member of CIRFS



WHO WE ARE

CIRFS

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 (incl. polyolefins) in 2019 but even so, its influence can only be fully asserted if it is united and represented by a 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, and now based in Brussels, it is well-established and highly regarded both in Europe and internationally.

ROLE & MISSION

"CIRFS IS THE VOICE OF THE MAN-MADE FIBRES INDUSTRY IN EUROPE"

CIRFS's mission is to facilitate sustainable growth of the European man-made fibres industry to meet the future needs of the consumer, society, and our planet.

CIRFS is driving this based on factual input from its members, close alignment with key stakeholders, partnerships with the regulatory framework, robust data management and effective communication.

CIRFS maintains close relationships with both European and international institutions. It represents more than 70% of the Man-Made Fibres (MMF) industry in Europe and promotes the interests of its members in product and industry safety, competitiveness and environmental sustainability.

OBJECTIVES

CIRFS

EUROPEAN MAN-MADE
FIBRES ASSOCIATION

WHAT WE AIM FOR

SHORT-TERM

- Make an impact in all urgent and important MMF industry-related matters
- Close advocacy with EU institutions, position CIRFS as THE counterpart for MMF
- Build a positive image of pro-active and solution provider association
- Expand the membership base and right-size service level to members' expectations
- Cooperate with other EU associations for optimal service level

MID-TERM

- Partner and collaborate across the textile/fibre "ecosystem" to align messages and educate EU consumers and other stakeholders in a better/more factual way e.g. about fibres and others. Start a unified environmental approach to avoid competition
- Position CIRFS as an essential contributor to new "EU Green deal" and provide sustainable solutions

LONG-TERM

- Enlarge partnerships and cooperation within but also beyond the EU

ADVOCACY/EXPERTISE

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

MMF IMAGE

LEVEL PLAYING FIELD



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

TRADE

DEFENCE OF INDUSTRY INTERESTS IN GLOBAL TRADE



- 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
- 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 agreement negotiations and various European trade regulations

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



SUSTAINABILITY

DEFENCE OF INDUSTRY INTERESTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION



- Receive regular updates of new European regulatory proposals
- 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 classification of substances)
 - Revision of the regulations on Industrial Emissions (IED, BREF)
 - Occupational exposure limits to chemicals
 - Control of bioactive substances (Biocidal Products Regulation)
 - Circular Economy/Waste and recycling issues
 - And much more...



Participate in CIRFS policy formation in Ecological Issues Committee

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, circular economy...)
- Exchange views with other CIRFS members in the Ecological Issues Committee

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

MARKET INFORMATION

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
- Receive quarterly Activity Report and annual Statistical Yearbook
- Benefit from the CIRFS analysis of developments in competing natural fibres
- Hear presentations and forecasts from the CIRFS statistical experts, and from external consultants



INNOVATION & STANDARDISATION

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 Global 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 BISFA's 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



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

EXCHANGE & NETWORKING

LINKS TO CHEMICALS AND TEXTILES



- As a member of EURATEX, the European Apparel and Textile Confederation, receive relevant information on textile developments, allowing CIRFS to influence textile policies
- Exchange with suppliers to the man-made fibres industry through CIRFS membership with CEFIC, the European Chemical Industry Council and cooperation with AEGIS Europe and other associations
- Participate in meetings organised by CIRFS to encourage networking between fibre and textile producers

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



- Highly experienced and professional CIRFS staff 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 get to the right official to help them with specific company interests, and will back up these contacts if no conflicts of interest are involved.

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



MEMBERSHIP & CONTACT

MEMBERSHIP CONDITIONS

- Any company producing (extruding) man-made fibres in Europe, in countries defined by the Board, is eligible for membership
- Currently, members are accepted from the European Union, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and other countries in Europe, Turkey, Belarus and Russia included. 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

MEMBERSHIP FEE

The annual subscription (full members) includes:

- A fee paid by all companies based on the volume of production of man-made fibres in Europe in the previous year
- BISFA activities on standards and test methods are included for free

Details of the current fee levels are available on request.

Conditions for associate membership are available per request (N.B.: There is a discount in the first year of the membership).



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

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, a statistician 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 at least 9 representatives, chosen from among member companies on a regularly rotating basis.

The top decision-making body is the General Assembly of all full member companies, meeting twice a year. All meetings take place in Brussels.

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

CONTACT

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

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