



Ympäristöministeriö  
Miljöministeriet  
Ministry of the Environment

# Separate Collection of Textiles - What, When, Why and What Else?

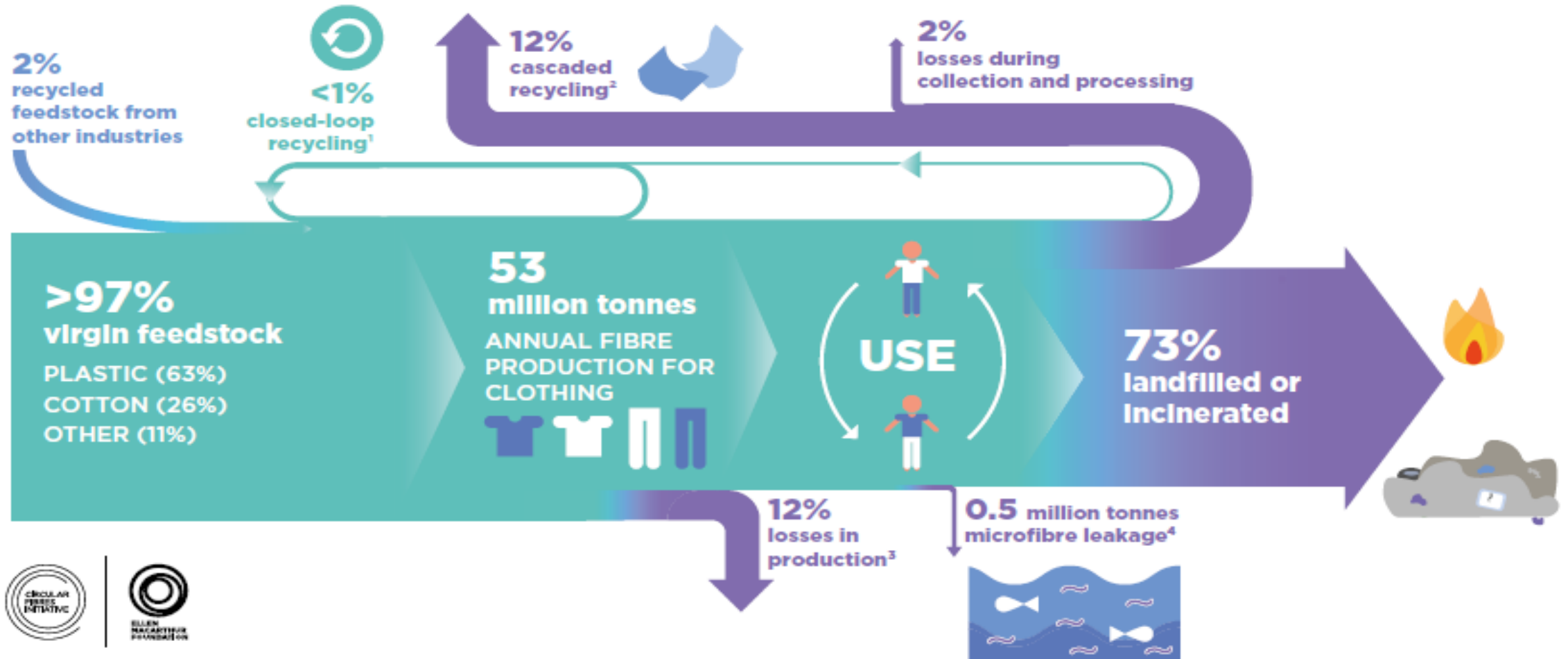
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20th November, 2019  
Textile Circular Economy networking event  
Helsinki

Sarianne Tikkanen, Ministry of the Environment, Finland

# Global material flows for clothing sector

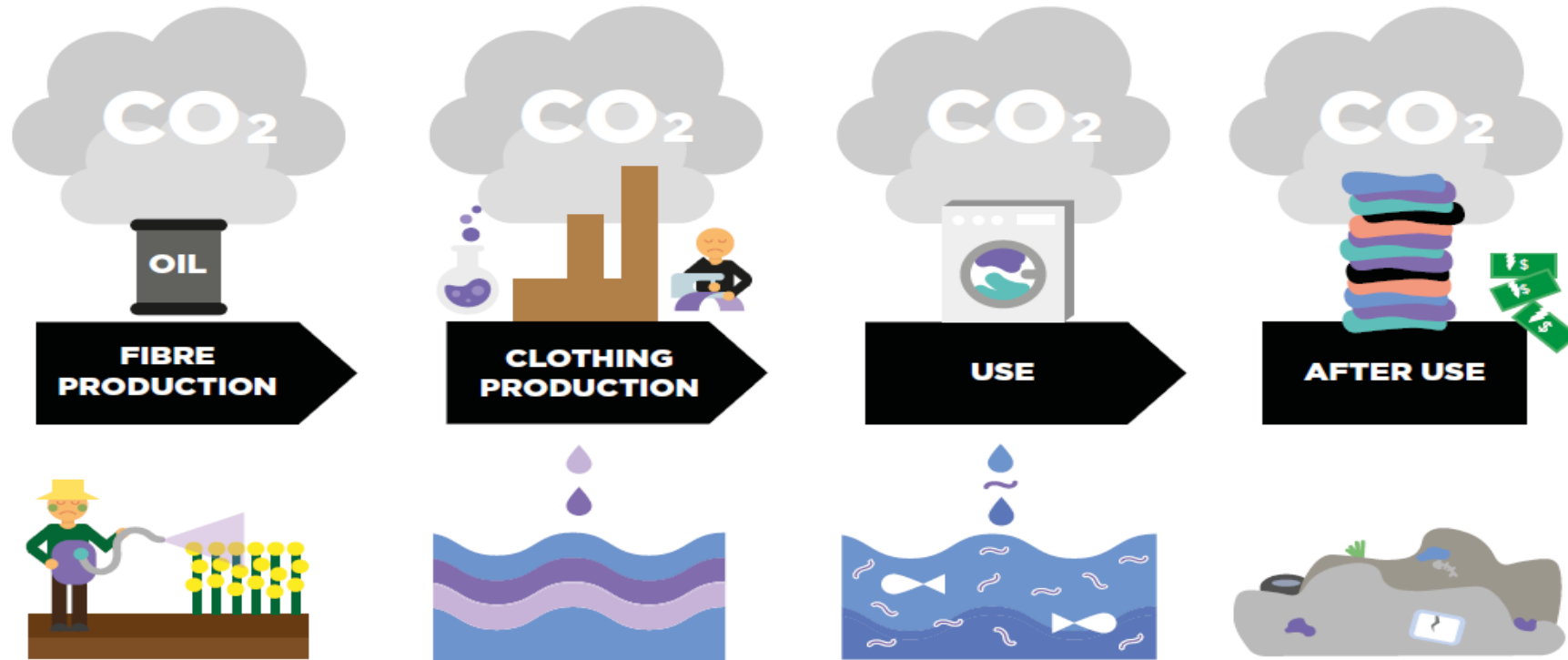
-> transition from linear model of production and consumption to sustainable and circular model is necessary



Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017): A new textiles economy.

# European Environmental Agency new report: Textiles in EU's Circular Economy -> EU citizen consumes about 1.3 tonnes of raw materials and more than 100 cubic metres of water a year for textiles

European Environment Agency



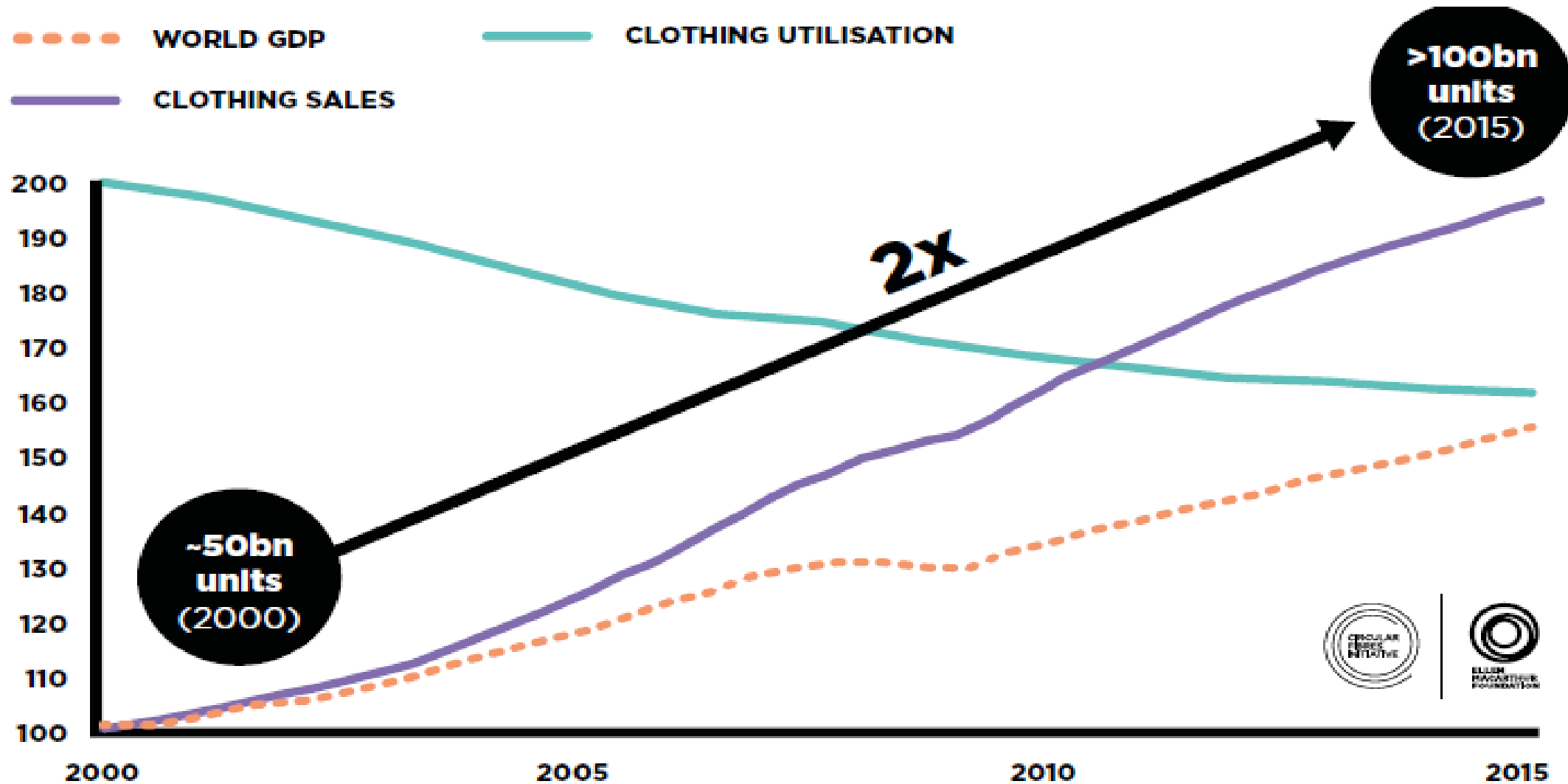
Environmental, health and social impacts of textiles



Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017): A new textiles economy.

# Sales of clothing has doubled & utilisation decreased 2000 – 2015

-> need to turn / slow down the trend



Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017): A new textiles economy.

# How to promote the transition

from linear model and fast fashion  
to sustainable and circular textile value chains?

- What kind of regulation we have at EU level? The main new regulation will be the obligation for separate collection of textiles.
- What kind of regulation we should have in future to promote and boost the transition?



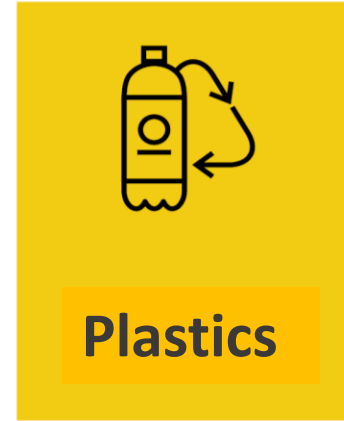
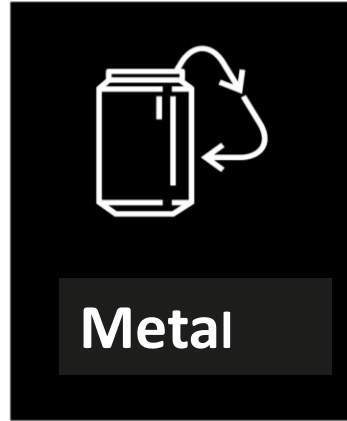


# EU Waste Legislation

## EU Circular Economy Package 2018

- 4 new waste directives / amendments of waste directives
  - **Directive on Waste** revision 2018/851
  - **Directive on Packaging Waste** revision 2018/852
  - **Directive on Landfill** revision 2018/850
  - **Directives on Electrical and Electronic Waste, End-of-life Vehicles, and Batteries and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Accumulators**, revision 2018/849
- Implementation at national level by 5.7.2020
  - **Fundamental changes in waste law and decrees at national level**
  - **Strengthening of waste hierarchy: prevention, reuse and recycling as material**

# Separate collection of waste in EU



## Separate collection of textiles

- Implementation by the year 2025
- No objectives for recycling rate at the moment
- Separately collected waste cannot be landfilled nor incinerated  
-> reuse or recycling as material

\* Already applied in Finland

# Separate collection of textiles – in Finnish policy documents

- New Government Programme (3.6.2019)
  - Strong commitment for Circular Economy
  - A cross-governmental programme to promote circular economy
  - A separate collection of textiles already in the beginning of 2023
- From Recycling to a Circular Economy  
– National Waste Plan to 2023 (2018)
  - Waste hierarchy and priorities
  - Prevention, reuse and recycling as material

EU2019.FI



An **ecologically sustainable Finland** shows the way in mitigating climate change and protecting biodiversity.



# Implementation of the separate collection of textiles in Finland

Obligation for separate collection of textiles  
applies both for citizens and companies

## Citizens

- Municipalities are responsible for organising the collection for citizens as all public waste management
- Municipalities are free to choose the model of organisation
- Eg. regional collection is sufficient

## Companies

- Those companies that produce textile waste are themselves responsible for organising the separate collection
- Companies are free to choose the model of organisation, for example together with other actors within regional collection

- Dry and warm collection containers are important to keep the quality of textile waste good for sorting, reuse and recycling
- Collection and pre-sorting at regional level: waste treatment centers/sorting stations

# Timetable for next steps and other actions

**December 2019:** Government bill will be circulated for comments

**Year 2023:** Separate collection of textile waste will come into force

## **A lot is already going on, for example:**

- Telaketju-project has tested and is piloting best practices and solutions
- Lounais-Suomen Jätehuolto has been running a collection and sorting experiment of end-of-life textiles
- Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority HSY is testing the collection of end-of-life / unusable textiles for free of charge at Sortti stations (-31.1.2020)
- Materiaalitori.fi helps to circulate textile waste for reuse and recycling
- Many companies are recycling and coordinating recycling of textile waste for new raw material
- A lot of research and development work in different fields and sectors

# Life of a T-shirt

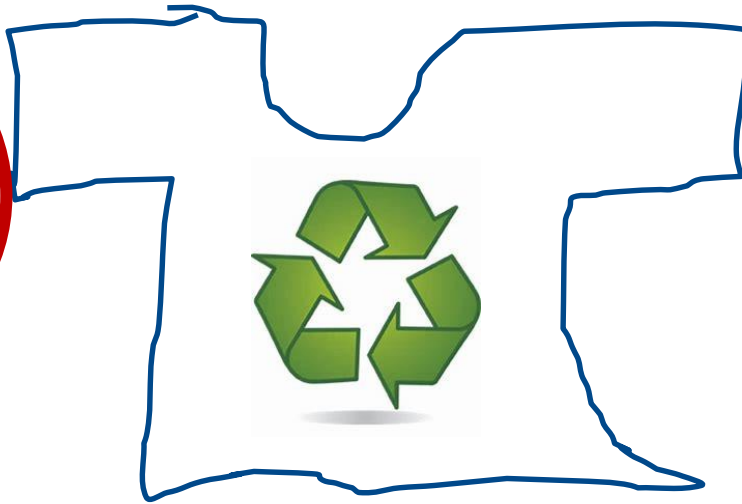
And where we need changes and regulation?

## Product design

- Durability
- Repairability
- Up dating

## Raw materials

- Cultivation
- Extraction
- Recycled material



Shopping and  
delivering

Manufacturing  
Process technology

## Logistics

### Utilisation phase

- Washing
- Reusing
- Sharing

Renting, second-hand  
and other new  
business models  
- repairing

Separate collection of  
textile waste  
- Sorting, reuse and  
recycling

# Closing the loop in textiles

- Requires changes in the entire value chain

Changes towards a more sustainable and circular textile value chain are needed in

- **upstream** (design and production)
- **midstream** (consumption and reuse)
- **downstream** (disposal and recycling) phases of the value chain.

All decisions that are made concerning made concerning

- product design, material choices,
- production technologies and facilities management,
- sustainable lifestyles, repairing, reusing, sharing and
- recycling practices

have an impact on the potential and possibilities of circularity in the textile economy.



## Council conclusion on Circular Economy, October 2019: “**More circularity – Transition to a sustainable society**”

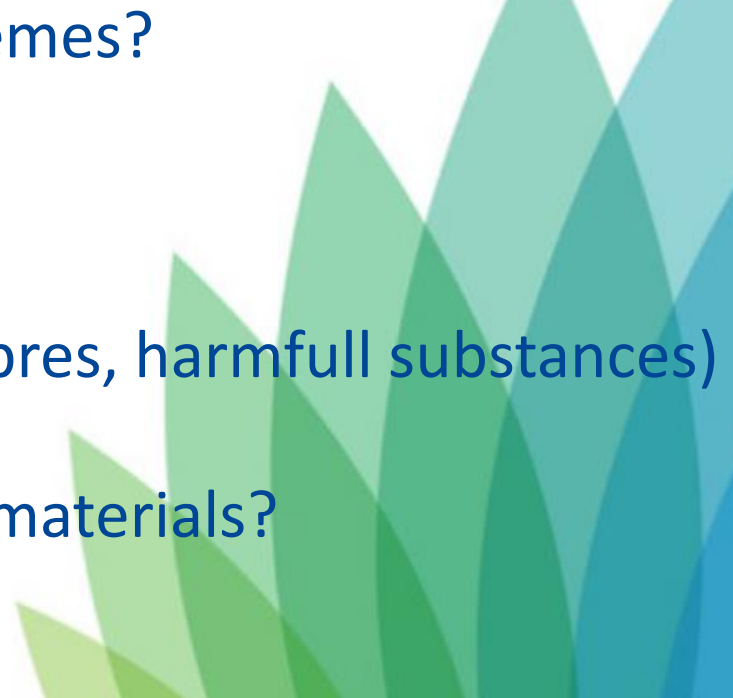
- Calls for an **EU Textile Strategy** to steer the textile sector towards more sustainable and circular value chains, including high-quality industrial recycling
- Underlines the need for **product policy measures** such as:
  - **Economic instruments**
  - **Ecodesign criteria** for textiles to promote a shift to more durable, reusable and repairable and long-lasting clothes and sustainable production processes
  - Measures to address the **risks of chemicals** in textiles
  - **Transparency and better information** for sustainable consumer choices
- **Public procurement** to boost circular textiles markets and innovation
  - Good examples and best practices are already

# From Waste Policy to **Product Policy and Consumers**

- What else do we need than separate collection?

**Council Conclusion:** Sustainable consumption, product design for circularity and new business models

What kind of regulation and other policy instruments could promote and boost sustainability and circularity in the textile value chains?

- EPR - Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes?
  - Ecodesign principles?
  - Longer guarantee times?
  - Repairability index? Standards? Ecolabels?
  - Regulation on labelling and the materials (fibres, harmful substances)
  - PEF - Product Environmental Footprint?
  - Obligation for using certain rate of recycled materials?
  - Public procurement?
  - Economic instruments? What else?
- 

A wide-angle landscape photograph of a calm lake. The sky is a vibrant blue, filled with large, fluffy white cumulus clouds. The most prominent cloud is a massive, rounded one on the left side of the frame. The lake's surface is perfectly still, acting as a mirror that reflects the sky and the surrounding forest. The forest consists of a dense line of green coniferous trees along the far shore. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

**Thank you!**

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Photo: Roine Piirainen, Tovari