

Agenda

14.00 – 14.05 Opening remarks: **Maria da Graça Carvalho, MEP**

14:05 - 14:30 [Sustainable Textiles: a business model for the future?](#)

Paola Migliorini, Deputy Head of Unit, Sustainable Production, Products & Consumption, DG ENVI, European Commission

Valerie Boiten, Senior Policy Officer, Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Sergio Tamborini, CEO RATTI SpA, and President designate of SMI (Sistema Moda Italia)

Moderator: **Mauro Scalia**, Director Sustainable Businesses, EURATEX

14:30 - 14:55 [Digital textiles: when innovation needs people](#)

Yves Paindaveine, Head of Unit “Digital Transformation of Industrial Ecosystems”, DG CONNECT, European Commission

Chiara Colombi, Associate Professor, Politecnico di Milano

Ana Pedrosa Rodrigues, Client Liaison, Pedrosa Rodrigues

Moderator: **Lisa Lang**, Associate Director Innovation & Skills, EURATEX

14:55 - 15:20 [Global textiles: creating a world market for European quality](#)

Ignacio Garcia Bercero, Director Multilateral Affairs, Strategy, Analysis, Evaluation, DG TRADE, European Commission

Judith Kirton-Darling, Deputy Secretary General, IndustriAll Europe

Franz-Peter Falke, CEO, Falke

Moderator: **Dirk Vantghem**, Director General, EURATEX

15.20 – 15.30 Closing remarks:

Jean-Francois Gribomont, CEO of UTEXBEL and EURATEX Vice-President

Simona Bonafé MEP

Biographies



Maria da Graça Carvalho, Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chair of the Sustainable, Long-term Investments & Competitive European Industry Intergroup

Maria da Graça Carvalho is currently a member of the European Parliament. She is actively engaged in ITRE, IMCO, FEMM and AIDA committees, while she is also co-chairing the parliamentary intergroup on Long-term, Sustainable Investments and Competitive European Industry.

She was a senior advisor of Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, from November 2014 to December 2015. Previously, she was a member of the European Parliament between July 2009 and May 2014 and in that capacity, she was one of the rapporteurs of Horizon 2020. From 2006 to 2009 she was also Principal Adviser to President Barroso in the fields of Science, Higher Education, Innovation, Research Policy, Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

She served as a Minister of Science and Higher Education of the XV Constitutional Government of Portugal and Minister of Science, Innovation and Higher Education of the XVI Constitutional Government. She is a Full Professor at the Instituto Superior Técnico (University of Lisbon).



Paola Migliorini, Deputy Head of Unit

Paola Migliorini, Deputy Head of Unit at the European Commission, Directorate General Environment, has been working on circular economy and innovation policies since 2012. She has coordinated the policy development and the implementation of the first Circular Economy Action Plan adopted by the European Commission in December 2015. Her responsibilities continues under the second Circular Economy Action Plan adopted in March 2020. Currently, her focus areas include the EU Ecolabel, Ecodesign and Energy labelling, EMAS and Textiles. She has both the experience of the European institutions, which includes funding opportunities for environmental protection, and of the private sector, namely the multinational health industry. Her motto: "explain, listen and make it happen".

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Valerie Boiten, Senior Policy Officer

Valérie Boiten is a Senior Policy Officer at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. She works on circular economy policies relevant for fashion and textiles, together with the Foundation's Make Fashion Circular team. The Make Fashion Circular initiative is dedicated to redesigning the fashion industry, based on circular economy principles. This new approach ensures that clothes are made from safe and renewable materials, new business models increase their use and old clothes are turned into new.



Sergio Tamborini, CEO

Sergio Tamborini is CEO of Ratti S.p.A (Marzotto Group). Ratti is one of the world's leading manufacturers of printed, plain, yarn-dyed and jacquard fabrics for clothing, neckwear, shirts, beachwear and home décor. At the same time, it also creates men and women's accessories such as ties, scarves and foulard. Ratti manages and controls the entire production chain: from the creative idea that develops around a project, the design of the fabric up to the ennobling phase.

He graduated in 1986 in Industrial Chemistry at the University of Milan. He also attended specialized courses in economics at SDA Bocconi in Milan. Prior to join Marzotto S.p.A. in 2003 and in Ratti in 2010, he worked in Frette SpA, Mantero Seta SpA and Liolà Group, where he acquired extensive experience in textiles.

Since 2018 he is deputy vice president for corporate strategies in SMI (Italian Association of Textile and Clothing Industries), and since April 2021 he is President - designate of this Association. He is also president of Italian technology cluster "MADE IN ITALY" for 2019 – 2023



Mauro Scalia, Director

Mauro Scalia is Director of Sustainable Businesses in EURATEX, the European Confederation of Textile and Apparel industry, in Brussels. He is responsible for all the Confederation activities promoting sustainability in the European sector, notably on chemicals, circularity and resource efficiency, climate change, due diligence. Engaged in the broader EURATEX mission, he coordinates with the Member associations across the value chain to work with the EU and other international Institutions.

Graduated cum laude in Political Sciences with specialization in Politics and Economics at the University of Catania, Italy, he joined EURATEX in 2004 after professional experiences in business

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consulting, industrial research and in the European Commission. Italian mother tongue, he also speaks English, French and German.



Yves Paidaveine, Head of Unit

Yves Paidaveine is Head of Sector for the Digitising European Industry governance in unit A4, Digital transformation of ecosystems in the European Commission (DG CONNECT).

Yves has been working in the policy fields to foster the uptake of digital technologies since the Digital Agenda for Europe in 2010 and is now driving the Digitising European Industry initiative as Head of Sector for its governance, in DG CONNECT (European Commission). An engineer graduated in microelectronics and in computer science from the Polytechnic School of Louvain, he joined the European Commission as a scientific officer for R&I projects dealing with health informatics, later with network security and dependability. Prior to this, he led, among others, distributed systems and security projects at the Open Software Foundation Research Institute.



Ana Pedrosa Rodrigues, Client Liaison

Ana Pedrosa Rodrigues was born in Barcelos, Portugal in 1985. Before officially joining Pedrosa & Rodrigues, her family's garment manufacturing business, she studied Fine Arts in Lancaster and later concluded her masters in Contemporary Art in London, UK. She interned at Sotheby's auction house in London and later press-officer for artist Joana Vasconcelos in Lisbon. She is now partner and Client Liaison at Pedrosa & Rodrigues, serving over 40 European and North American luxury fashion brands, and Guest Speaker at industry-related events and institutions such as London

College of Fashion and Lisbon Fashion Week.



Chiara Colombi, Associate Professor

Associate Professor at Design dept. - Politecnico di Milano and Faculty Member in the Fashion Design programs (BSc and MSc) at Design School - Politecnico di Milano. She has 15 years' experience in education, research and professional consultancy in the fashion design field with a main professional focus on knowledge creation processes, codification of meta-design research praxis, and development of merchandising systems. Her experiences cover European research activities and field projects and consultancies for main fashion brands. She has more recently specialized on

the impact of digital technologies in the creative industries with a specific focus in fashion.

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Lisa Lang, Associate Director

Lisa Lang is a European technologist and innovative textile expert. She has gained recognition as one of Forbes Europe's Top 50 Women in Tech, top 100 most influential people in wearable tech worldwide, one of 25 leaders in fashion and technology worldwide, and has been listed as one of the 50 most important women for innovation & startups in the EU.

Lisa Lang a direct adviser for fashion, technology and entrepreneurship for the European Commission, focusing on creative industries and Artificial Intelligence strategies on several high-level advisory boards. She founded highly recognized companies like ElektroCouture, ThePowerHouse and FNDMT who are dedicated to push innovation within the fashion technology sector.

Since 2021 she has joined EURATEX, Europe's biggest interest group for the textile and apparel industry as Associated Director for Innovation & Skills. There she's creating the future strategies for digitalisation, new standards and education program for the textile and apparel sector.



Ignacio Garcia Bercero, Director

Ignacio Garcia Bercero is Director in charge of Multilateral Affairs, Strategy and economic Analysis at DG Trade in the European Commission. Active at the European Commission since 1987, from 2012 he was Director responsible for overseeing EC activities in the fields of Neighboring Countries, US and Canada. He was Chief Negotiator for the TTIP negotiations. Between 2005-2011 he was director in the areas of Sustainable Development, Bilateral Trade Relations (South Asia, South-East Asia, Korea, EuroMed and the Middle East). Mr Garcia Becero was also the Chief Negotiator for the EU-Korea and EU-India Free Trade Agreements. Before that, he was head of unit for WTO Dispute Settlement. He has written several papers and publications on WTO matters, Safeguard Measures, Trade and Competition, Dispute Settlement and Regulatory Cooperation. In 2020, he completed a fellowship at Saint Anthony's College (Oxford), where his research focused on WTO reform. Mr Garcia Bercero holds a Law Degree from the Law Faculty of Universidad Complutense, Madrid and a Master of Laws Degree (with Distinction) from University College, London.



Judith Kirton-Darling, Deputy Secretary General

Judith Kirton-Darling is Deputy General Secretary of industriAll Europe, representing manufacturing, mining and energy workers from 38 European countries. She was formerly a Labour Member of the European Parliament for the North East of England (2014-20). Before entering parliament, she was active for 15 years within the Labour and trade union movement, notably she was elected Confederal Secretary at the European Trade Union Confederation in 2011.



Franz-Peter Falke, CEO Falke Group

1.10.1951 born in Schmallingenberg, Germany

Studies at the University of Economics and Social Sciences in St. Gallen (CH) (1969-1973) and at the Textile College in Reutlingen (1973-1974)

DR. OETKER TIEFKUHLKOST in Bielefeld (assistant to the managing director) (1975-1979), then managing Director of FALKE FASHION in Schmallingenberg (1980-1994) and Managing Partner of the FALKE GROUP in Schmallingenberg (1990-present).

He's also President of the German Brands Association Member Board of Euratex, Member of the Board of Gesamtverband Textil und Mode, Vice President of the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Southern Africa and Member of the Executive Committee Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie e.V. (BDI).



Dirk Vantghem, Director General

Dirk Vantghem is the Director General of EURATEX, the European Textile Association. Dirk joined EURATEX as a Director General in September 2019. His mandate is to move the organisation forward and to promote a competitive, sustainable and innovative European Textiles and Clothing industry. Prior to EURATEX, Dirk worked for EUROCHAMBRES, the European Chamber of Commerce lobby, as a Director of Operations and previously Director of International Trade. Dirk has an economic background and holds a Master's degree from the College of Europe, Bruges.



Jean-François Gribomont, EURATEX Vice-President

After studies of economy in Belgium and MBA in the United States, Jean-François Gribomont joined the family textile company Utexbel in 1977 and as CEO in 1989.

The company is completely integrated spinning, weaving, finishing, yarn dyeing and printing in Belgium, France, Morocco with subcontracting in Germany, Austria, Italy, Portugal.

He is a firm believer of the European textile value added.

He is president of Eurocoton (European Federation of the Cotton and Allied Textiles Industries) and past president of Fedustria (Belgian textile federation) where he is still President of Fedustria Wallonie.



Simona Bonafè, Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chair of the Sustainable, Long-term Investments & Competitive European Industry Intergroup

Simona Bonafè ran for her second mandate as a member of the European Parliament in May 2019. As head of list of the Italian Democratic Party (PD) she was the most voted among the elected members in her Constituency.

In the European Parliament, she is the Vice president of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats (S&D) in charge of Parliamentary Affairs and Interinstitutional Relations. She sits as Member in the Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), and as Substitute Member in the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). She is Member of the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China (D-CN). She has been the European Parliament Rapporteur for the revision of the four directives contained in the Circular Economy Package and for the Water Reuse Regulation.

Before the European Parliament, MEP Bonafè was elected to the Italian Lower Chamber in 2013, sitting in the Committee for Economic Activities and Trade. Prior to that, for over 10 years she was engaged in local politics in Tuscany, where she served as Municipal Council Member for Environment.