

European Citizens' Initiative



We, the citizens of the European Union, call on EU institutions to take urgent and ambitious action to reduce textile waste caused by fast fashion.

Why we are petitioning

Fast fashion is creating an environmental problem on a massive scale. In the EU, textile consumption reached about 19 kg per person in 2022, while around 12 kg of clothing and footwear waste per person is dumped each year. **EU countries generated about 6.94 million tonnes of textile waste in 2022, or roughly 16 kg per person.**

The problem is not only how much we buy, but also what happens afterward. According to the European Environment Agency, in 2020 only about 4.4 kg per person of textile waste in the EU was collected separately for reuse and recycling, while 11.6 kg per person ended up in mixed household waste.

Textiles also place a heavy burden on the climate and environment. The European Parliament reports that textile purchases in the EU in 2022 generated about 355 kg of CO₂ emissions per person. **UNEP states that the textile industry is responsible for 2% to 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and that globally around 92 million tonnes of textile waste are produced every year.**

This is not just a waste problem. It is also a resource problem. UNEP reports that global textile production doubled between 2000 and 2015, while the average length of garment use fell by 36%. In other words, more clothes are being produced, used for less time, and thrown away faster.

Why the EU must act

This problem affects all member states and cannot be solved by individual countries acting alone. A common EU response is needed because the textile market is cross-border, the environmental impact is shared, and weak rules in one country can undermine action in others. The European Parliament has also stated that fast fashion should become “out of fashion” and that the EU aims for textiles on the EU market to be more durable, recyclable, and environmentally responsible.

What we are asking for

We ask the European Union to adopt a strong law that includes:

- a **high textile waste reduction target**
- a **clear and short deadline**
- **strong obligations for producers and companies**
- **effective penalties** for non-compliance
- **clear consumer information** on sustainability and durability