



# Cross Industry Agreement

The prevention of microplastic release into the aquatic environment during the washing of synthetic clothes

The agreement aims at defining:



1

Define common measurement methods



2

Share knowledge



3

Foster industrial research

This is a voluntary initiative, launched in Europe, to developing solutions across the value chain that can be effectively applied by industry, consumers, and authorities.



### **What is the Cross Industry Agreement on microplastic?**

It is a voluntary collaboration between industry stakeholders who can effectively contribute to reducing the unintentional microplastic release in the environment.

More specifically, it is a working group set up by European industry associations, that have a vested interest in the textiles washing process, which is often cited as one of the sources of microplastic release in the aquatic environment. The five supporting industry associations have committed to share their knowledge, expertise and resources to tackle the existing knowledge gaps and propose a way forward.

### **Why was it initiated?**

This joint effort was launched because of the recognition by all signatories that the issue is a global and cross-sectorial one. Research and coordination are needed to ensure that the measures put in place are effective and can be implemented by a very diverse set of players.

### **Who is part of this initiative?**

The agreement has been drawn up by a group of five European industry associations: A.I.S.E., CIRFS, EOG, EURATEX, and FESI. Each association contributes to the initiative based on its own role in the textile manufacturing and maintenance value chain, its available resources and where its expertise can bring relevant added value to the table.

Other relevant stakeholders at European and global level will also be invited to join this cross-sectorial cooperation.

### **How is the working group managed?**

The participating associations will work according to the rules agreed in the joint Memorandum of Understanding. Unanimity among the signatories is the basic principle that will drive each stage of the decision-making process.

### **What are the deliverables of the working group?**

The working group shall assess knowledge gaps, support and participate in industrial research activities where relevant, and agree on a reliable and harmonised test method to identify and quantify the type of fibres present in water.

