

### **EU MANIFESTO**

For a Sustainable and Circular European Textiles and Footwear Industry





### **TABLE OF CONTENT**

Table of content	2
Editorial by Maud HARDY and Didier SOUFFLET Introduction	
footwear sector	6
Proposal n°1 – Set binding and realistic collection and recycling targets	7
Proposal n°2 - Ensure fair EPR compliance for all producers	8
Proposal n°3 – Establish a single European register for producers	9
Proposal n°4 – Include professional textiles and footwear in the scope of the EPR so	
CHAPTER 2 – Turn our waste into resources to build a European recycling industry	11
Proposal n°5 – Create a European fund for textiles and footwear recycling	12
Proposal n°6 – Implement a reduced VAT on recycled materials	13
Proposal n°7 - Create a General Assembly on Social and Solidarity Economy at EU I	evel . 14
Proposal n°8 – Set up a European Forum for Textiles and footwear recycling	15
CHAPTER 3 – Enhance citizen awareness for responsible consumption	16
Proposal n°9 – Develop a harmonized European environmental labeling system	17
Proposal n°10 – Enhance and reinvent careers in textile and footwear repair and rec	use 18
SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSALS	19
About DEEASHION	20



### **EDITORIAL**

## Together, we can transform the European textiles and footwear sector into a more sustainable and responsible model. Our future must be shaped through collective effort.

Fifteen years ago, Refashion was founded with an ambitious vision: to sustainably transform the textiles, home linens, and footwear (TLC) sector in France into a benchmark for circular economy practices. While there is still work to be done nationally, we can be proud of the progress achieved so far. Our 2022 White Paper provided an initial assessment and articulated this vision through 10 proposals for the sector at the national level.

Today, it is time to take a step back and broaden our perspective beyond French borders. The TLC sector in Europe is facing unprecedented challenges: globalization of production chains, declining purchasing power and a shift towards lower-end consumption, increasing logistics costs, and more. Simultaneously, the collection sector is undergoing a deep structural crisis: a sharp decline in international outlets, coupled with significantly lower resale prices, has put the sector under severe strain, threatening the end-of-life management of textiles. These challenges call for a profound rethink of our economic and environmental model.

The European elections in June 2024 and the upcoming legislative term present a historic opportunity to reshape the future of our sector. Let us seize it to make impact reduction a European priority for TLC!

At Refashion, we firmly believe that only collective and determined action will enable us to address these challenges.

The Manifesto you hold in your hands is not merely a series of recommendations. It is a call to action—an invitation to co-create a future where used textiles, linens, and footwear are no longer waste but valuable resources.

It is structured around three strategic pillars:

- (1) Successfully implementing a harmonized EPR scheme for textiles and footwear across Europe.
- (2) Improving end-of-life management for textiles in Europe.
- (3) Promoting more sustainable and responsible consumption.

We must be ambitious and think big. Refashion is committed to taking a leading role in this transformation, calling for close collaboration among all stakeholders.

Together, we can transform the way we produce, consume, and recycle textiles.

Together, let's build a sustainable and circular Europe.

Didier SOUFLET, President Maud HARDY, General Director



### INTRODUCTION

The textile industry, both in Europe and globally, is at a pivotal moment in its history, marked by an unprecedented convergence of environmental, economic, and social challenges.

Over the past five years, the European Union, aware of the urgency of these issues, has taken strong action by adopting two strategic initiatives: the *European Green Deal* (2019) and the subsequent *Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles* (2020). These initiatives aim to profoundly transform industrial practices among producers and consumption behaviors among citizens, setting clear and ambitious targets for various sectors, including textiles, footwear, and home linens (TLC).

These policies have led to the implementation of several sector-specific regulations since 2019 to support this transition:

- The proposed revision of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) to harmonize the EPR scheme for textiles and footwear across Europe,
- The Waste Shipment Regulation to restrict illegal exports,
- The Eco-Design for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) enforcing strict sustainability and recyclability standards,
- The Right to Repair initiative ensuring the right to repair products to extend their lifespan,
- The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) strengthening corporate obligations for ESG reporting.

While these initiatives represent an important first step and a solid foundation, they alone will not be sufficient to achieve the ambitious environmental objectives that are critical for the sector.

The current valorization model for collected textiles, which is heavily reliant on exports, is showing worrying signs of saturation. This excessive dependence on external markets underscores the fragility of the system and the pressing need to collectively rethink a more resilient and sustainable model.

It is now essential to promote the development of local solutions and robust reuse and recycling systems within Europe to reduce this reliance, safeguard resources, and ensure the sector's long-term viability. Achieving this transformation will require strong and coordinated commitment from policymakers and industry stakeholders, who must collaborate to create viable alternatives to export-driven models.

In this evolving context, the European elections in June 2024 represent a pivotal opportunity to reinforce and expand existing initiatives.

Faced with challenges of global magnitude, the EU must equip itself to take on a responsible and exemplary leadership role on the international stage. Our actions have global repercussions: EU Member States must unite to drive the ecological transition within the textile sector while leveraging opportunities to strengthen the EU's industrial competitiveness.



The newly elected members of the European Parliament must now commit not only to rigorously finalizing and implementing these initiatives but also to going further by investing in the future of the sector. This means ensuring greater circularity, promoting technological innovation to manage waste and preserve resources, advancing eco-design, and encouraging responsible consumption, reuse, and repair practices across Europe.

France has been a pioneer in this field, having adopted the first Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for textiles, footwear, and home linens fifteen years ago. As the first and only producer responsibility organization in the sector, Refashion is dedicated to leading the way in Europe, working collaboratively to build a circular and sustainable industry grounded in effective standards.

The next five years must also enable ambitious harmonization of the EPR scheme for textiles and footwear across Europe. Producers cannot be expected to navigate inconsistent regulations across countries within an open market.

What is needed is a clear European vision and unified objectives to encourage long-term investment in sustainable initiatives, alongside common rules for traceability and environmental impact assessment for products distributed throughout Europe.

Now more than ever, building a genuine circular economy requires concrete and collective actions. Engaging all stakeholders—policymakers, industry players, and citizens—in this joint effort will be crucial over the next five years.

The transformation is already underway, and every action matters in shaping the world of tomorrow.



# CHAPTER 1 – Building a strong and harmonized EPR framework for the EU Textiles and footwear sector

The upcoming European mandate must focus on establishing a robust and harmonized EPR scheme for textiles and footwear at the European level.

Such harmonization is essential to achieve the ambitious targets set by the European Union in its Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles, particularly regarding collection, sorting, and recycling.

At Refashion, we believe that a harmonized EPR scheme must be equitable, apply to all producers, and promote traceability and effective oversight.



### PROPOSAL N°1 – Set binding and realistic collection and recycling targets

#### CONTEXT

The European Union generates 12.6 million tons of textile waste annually, including 5.2 million tons of clothing and footwear—equivalent to 12 kg per person per year. Currently, only 22% of this waste is separately collected for reuse, repurposing, or recycling, with the remainder often incinerated or landfilled (European Commission data, April 2024).

On July 5, 2023, the European Commission presented a proposal to revise the Waste Framework Directive, aiming to reduce the environmental and climate impacts of waste, particularly textiles.

However, this proposal does not set binding targets for the collection, sorting, and recycling of textiles, relying instead on an indicative target of 50% collection. This non-binding approach is misaligned with the Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles, which seeks to establish an ambitious circular economy. In the absence of clear and binding objectives, Member States risk failing to develop the necessary infrastructure and systems for effective textile waste management.

Refashion believes it is crucial to establish realistic and binding targets for the collection, sorting, and recycling of textiles within the Waste Framework Directive. These targets must be phased in progressively to allow Member States to develop the required infrastructure and ensure effective implementation.

#### WHERE DO WE CURRENTY STAND IN FRANCE?

In France, Refashion's specifications (2023 - 2028) set the following targets:

- 60 % of annual market placement to be collected by 2028,
- 99,5 % recovery, with only 0.5% of materials stored or disposed of without recovery,
- 80 % of non-reusable textiles to be recycled by 2027.

However, these targets appear challenging to achieve. **Drawing on the lessons learned from** the French experience, it is therefore essential to establish <u>realistic</u> and <u>achievable</u> objectives.

### **PROPOSAL**

Refashion proposes setting realistic and binding targets for the collection and recycling of textiles and footwear across Europe, to be implemented progressively by Member States. This measure could be introduced through an amendment to the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).



### PROPOSAL N°2 – Ensure fair EPR compliance for all producers

#### **CONTEXT**

Microenterprises are currently excluded from EPR obligations under the proposed revision of the Waste Framework Directive, despite being integral to the textile ecosystem. This exclusion raises several issues.

On the one hand, it shifts the cost of managing their waste onto other producers, which is both unfair and inconsistent with the Directive's "no registration, no market" principle. It also allows "free riders" to claim microenterprise status to evade their responsibilities.

Furthermore, this exclusion contradicts Article 22c 3(c) of the Directive, which stipulates that financial contributions must ensure equal treatment for all producers, regardless of their origin or size, without imposing disproportionate burdens on small businesses. By exempting microenterprises, an inequitable system is created, compromising both the fairness and effectiveness of the EPR framework.

To ensure fair and sustainable textile waste management, it is essential to **include all producers** within the scope of EPR. This would ensure an equitable distribution of costs and responsibilities across businesses. However, tailored measures could be introduced for microenterprises, such as simplified reporting requirements, to avoid placing an undue administrative burden on them.

### WHERE DO WE CURRENTY STAND IN FRANCE?

All producers operating in France, regardless of their size, pay eco-contributions based on the quantities they place on the market.

### PROPOSAL

Refashion proposes subjecting all producers operating in Europe to EPR obligations, regardless of their size. However, specific provisions for reporting could be introduced for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to account for the disproportionate administrative burden they might face. This measure could be implemented through an amendment to the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).



### PROPOSAL N°3 – Establish a single European register for producers

#### CONTEXT

The absence of a unified European register for textile and footwear producers, which is not addressed in the current Waste Framework Directive, would significantly complicate the management and oversight of the EPR system. A single register, supervised by an independent authority, would reduce administrative burdens for producers and streamline information exchange between Member States. Failing this, clearer measures to harmonize collected data and establish connections between national registers would be necessary to ensure efficient information sharing.

It is also worth noting that the definition of "producer" varies between Member States, making it difficult to identify and monitor producers effectively. This complexity, combined with multi-layered supply chains and diverse distribution channels, encourages the emergence of freeriders—producers who avoid paying their eco-contributions.

Although the Waste Framework Directive provides for penalties for non-compliance, enforcement and sanctions must be strengthened to combat freeriders effectively. A unified European register or harmonized measures, coupled with enhanced cooperation with customs authorities, would improve monitoring, reduce freeriding, and ensure a fairer and more sustainable implementation of EPR across Europe.

The independent authority overseeing the register should have the power to enforce strict penalties against freeriders. Additionally, requiring producers based outside the EU to appoint an EU-established representative would be a valuable measure to enhance accountability and compliance.

### WHERE DO WE CURRENTY STAND IN FRANCE?

In France, a single register managed by ADEME (Syderep), using information provided by the producer responsibility organization (PRO), serves as the central system. The establishment of this register, along with the unique identification number (UIN) for registered producers, initially helped to regulate numerous small third-party sellers operating via online marketplaces. However, its current effectiveness in combating freeriders is far less certain. Non-compliance or the absence of a UIN often results in minimal consequences for these producers. The control and sanction system, which relies heavily on the existence of this national identification register, has proven largely inadequate. To address this, it is essential to clarify and strengthen the role of online marketplaces in fraud prevention and enforcement.



### **PROPOSAL**

Refashion suggests establishing a unified European register for textile and footwear producers, supervised by an independent authority with the resources to enforce sanctions and effectively combat freeriders. This measure could be implemented through an amendment to the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).



### PROPOSAL N°4 – Include professional textiles and footwear in the scope of the EPR scheme

#### CONTEXT

The current proposal to revise the Waste Framework Directive by the European Commission excludes professional textiles, leather clothing and accessories (such as luggage and leather goods), and curtains or drapes from the scope of EPR. Worth noting, discussions are underway in the European Parliament to include these categories.

This exclusion creates a significant gap in textile waste management, as all such products, regardless of their intended use or materials, generate waste at the end of their life cycle.

Including professional textiles within the scope of EPR is crucial to ensuring a coherent and effective approach to textile waste management. Leaving these categories outside the EPR framework prevents an integrated and collective approach to waste management, thereby limiting the overall efficiency of recycling efforts.

Moreover, excluding professional textiles and other mentioned categories reduces producers' accountability for managing their products throughout their lifecycle. This undermines the principles of the EPR system, which promotes shared responsibility and sustainable resource management.

Incorporating professional textiles, leather clothing and accessories, and curtains or drapes into the EPR scope would ensure equitable responsibility among all producers and enable a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to textile waste management. While the European Parliament is supportive of their inclusion, this step must still be secured through future trilogue negotiations between the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the Council of the EU.

### WHERE DO WE CURRENTY STAND IN FRANCE?

In France, professional textiles and fully leather accessories are currently excluded from the scope of EPR. Curtains and drapes have been reassigned to the Furniture EPR scheme.



### **PROPOSAL**

Refashion proposes including professional textiles and footwear within the scope of a harmonized European EPR framework. This measure could be implemented through an amendment to the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).



# CHAPTER 2 – Turn our waste into resources to build a European recycling industry

A paradigm shift is needed to view our used textiles and footwear as resources, driving innovation, enhancing competitiveness, and building a sovereign, sustainable, and resilient European textile recycling industry. By transforming these used textiles and footwear into opportunities, we can reduce their environmental impact and strengthen our industry for the future.



### PROPOSAL N°5 – Create a European fund for textiles and footwear recycling

#### **CONTEXT**

The economic model of sorting centers currently depends heavily on long-distance exports of sorted textiles and footwear, which account for approximately 50% of sorted volumes and 55% of their revenue. In Europe, local demand for the reuse of collected textiles and footwear remains insufficient, compelling sorting centers to export most of their output. In 2023, 58.58% of collected and sorted textiles in France were deemed reusable, yet less than 10% were resold locally, with the remainder predominantly exported to markets in Asia and Africa (*Refashion*, 2023).

Annually, 5.3 million tons of used textiles and footwear are exported, primarily from the EU, the United States, China, and Pakistan. Despite a 70% increase in this market since 2008, it now faces a structural crisis as demand in third countries declines, making export conditions increasingly restrictive.

The current model has reached its limits, requiring a comprehensive overhaul. A paradigm shift is necessary to position used textiles as resources at the heart of a competitive and sovereign European industry for collection, sorting, and recycling.

Establishing a European fund for textile and footwear recycling would enable the development of critical infrastructure, foster markets for recycled materials, and support the growth of a robust recycling industry across Europe.

### WHERE DO WE CURRENTY STAND IN FRANCE?

Refashion provides financial support for innovative projects working towards a 100% circular textile sector through its Innovation Challenge and Industrial Challenge initiatives. These calls for projects have a dual objective:

- 1. **Developing and scaling innovative industrial and commercial solutions** to optimize the recycling of textiles and footwear.
- 2. Accelerating the growth of a circular industry in synergy with other sectors seeking recycled materials.

### **PROPOSAL**

To develop a competitive recycling industry in Europe and reduce dependence on textile waste exports, Refashion suggests creating a dedicated European fund for textile and footwear recycling. This measure could be implemented by integrating the fund into the European Union's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).



### PROPOSAL N°6 – Implement a reduced VAT on materials derived from recycled Textiles and footwear

#### CONTEXT

Recycled materials currently lack preferential tax treatment compared to virgin materials, significantly limiting their market competitiveness. The production of recycled materials incurs higher costs due to the complex processes involved in collection, sorting, and recycling.

Consequently, companies, including those in the textile sector, have little incentive to prioritize recycled materials, often opting for less expensive virgin alternatives. The absence of fiscal incentives for recycled materials undermines the adoption of sustainable practices and delays progress toward a circular economy.

In the textile sector, this dynamic perpetuates the predominant use of virgin raw materials in finished products, exacerbating resource overconsumption and increasing textile waste.

Implementing a reduced VAT rate on materials derived from recycled textiles and footwear would lower costs for both producers and consumers, enhancing the competitiveness of such materials and fostering greater demand for products containing recycled content.

This measure, which would require unanimous agreement among Member States, was first raised for discussion at the European Commission in June 2023, initiated by the Czech Republic. However, it has yet to translate into a formal legislative proposal.

### WHERE DO WE CURRENTY STAND IN FRANCE?

In 2023<sup>1</sup>,, a report commissioned by the Minister of Ecological Transition explored avenues and recommendations for reduced VAT rates on the repair of textiles, linens, and footwear (TLC). The report also aimed to facilitate citizens' access to products containing recycled materials. A proposal reflecting these recommendations is currently under consideration during the review of the 2025 Finance Bill.

### PROPOSAL

To promote the use of recycled materials and support the transition to a circular economy, it is proposed to introduce a reduced VAT rate on recycled materials. This measure could be implemented at the European level by amending Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value-added tax.

13

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> « Proposition pour la mise en place d'une TVA circulaire », rapport réalisé Emmanuelle Ledoux et Emery Jacquillat à la demande de Christophe Béchu, ministre de la Transition écologique, septembre 2023.



### PROPOSAL N°7 – Create a General Assembly on Social and Solidarity Economy at EU level

#### **CONTEXT**

The export of used textiles outside Europe raises significant economic and environmental challenges for the textiles, linens, and footwear (TLC) sector. The global secondhand clothing market, valued at over €5 billion, operates on a model of exports from Northern countries (Europe, the United States, and a growing China-Pakistan hub) to Southern countries that consume these products. This is a highly competitive market relying on international value chains.

In recent years, however, shocking reports and images have exposed the darker side of this model, with clothing ending up in open-air landfills in Africa and South America.

A sharp decline in international outlets, coupled with a significant drop in resale prices and competition from non-EU players, has placed the sector under severe strain. French sorting and collection operators, which are predominantly social and solidarity economy (SSE) actors, face significant challenges that already threaten the management of textiles at collection points.

This crisis highlights the limits of the current model and is not a temporary issue; it is a structural crisis requiring a collective reassessment of the role of SSE actors in the EPR TLC sector. The entire model of these operators must be reimagined within a framework that fully prioritizes environmental benefits.

A clear vision and structural support from public authorities are now essential to effectively guide this transition.

### WHERE DO WE CURRENTY STAND IN FRANCE?

Refashion convened an emergency observatory committee and is actively working to alert public authorities to the urgent need for developing recycling solutions while supporting the transition of social and solidarity economy (SSE) actors.



### **PROPOSAL**

In light of these challenges, Refashion advocates for the organization of a European General Assembly on the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), under the auspices of the European Commission, to collaboratively redesign the end-of-life management model for textiles at the European level.

Additionally, Refashion urges the removal of the preferential status currently granted to SSE actors in the proposed revision of the Waste Framework Directive.



### PROPOSAL N°8 – Set up a European Forum for Textiles and footwear recycling

#### CONTEXT

European policies are currently placing a strong emphasis on reindustrialization, industrial sovereignty, and the transition to a more circular and sustainable economy. While numerous initiatives are emerging to support this transition, particularly in the textile sector, there is a lack of a unified platform to showcase the efforts of European sorting and recycling stakeholders.

The organization of a European Summit on Textile and Footwear Recycling would be a strategic initiative to bring together industry players, policymakers, and investors to address the challenges of recycling and circularity.

Such an event would provide an opportunity to showcase innovations, share best practices, and facilitate partnerships and investments critical to advancing the circular economy in the textile sector.

By offering a dedicated platform, the summit would shine a spotlight on European initiatives for sorting, recycling, and valorizing textiles and footwear, increasing their visibility and supporting Europe's green reindustrialization. This would enhance coordination of efforts, attract greater funding, and accelerate progress toward a more sustainable and resilient textile industry.

### WHERE DO WE CURRENTY STAND IN FRANCE?

In 2021, Refashion launched the "Recycle Platform" to map textile and footwear waste streams, promote recycling solutions, and connect industry stakeholders. This hub facilitates partnerships by linking companies with waste materials to those seeking recycled inputs for new products.

In early 2025, Refashion will host the Recycling Summit in Paris to accelerate collaboration, innovation, and investment in the circular textile economy.



### **PROPOSAL**

To support reindustrialization and the transition to a circular economy, Refashion proposes establishing a European Forum on Textile and Footwear Recycling, bringing together European institutions and industry stakeholders. This initiative could be included in the conclusions of the European Council. Additionally, scaling the "Recycle Platform" to the European level would further enhance collaboration and innovation.



## CHAPTER 3 – Enhance citizen awareness for responsible consumption

An effective transition to a circular economy requires raising consumer awareness and providing information on the environmental impact of their purchases, as well as the solutions available to adopt more sustainable behaviors regarding their textiles and footwear.

Transparency and accessible information are key drivers to encourage citizens' active participation in the lifecycle of textiles, from purchase to end-of-life management.



### PROPOSAL N°9 – Develop a harmonized European environmental labeling system

#### **CONTEXT**

Implementing mandatory environmental labeling for textiles and footwear on the European market is essential to enable consumers to make informed purchasing decisions. European consumers are already demanding greater transparency: 70% are willing to pay more if sustainability indices are displayed on products, according to the European Barometer by Observatoire Cetelem (January 2022).

Currently, several national and European initiatives aim to develop environmental labeling systems, but the lack of harmonization creates fragmentation, leading to potential confusion and inefficiency.

The Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR) have laid the groundwork for a common methodology to assess the environmental impacts of textile and footwear products. However, without harmonized environmental labeling at the European level, producers may face conflicting requirements across countries, complicating communication with consumers and increasing compliance costs.

European harmonization is critical to ensure clear and consistent information, facilitating more responsible consumer choices and supporting an effective transition to a circular economy, building on the work conducted under PEFCR.

Strengthening consumer information will also require supporting awareness campaigns and other educational initiatives.

### WHERE DO WE CURRENTY STAND IN FRANCE?

France is currently developing an environmental labeling system for textile products called Ecobalyse. While voluntary for now, this labeling is expected to become mandatory in the future, although no implementation date has been set yet.



### **PROPOSAL**

To provide consumers with clear and consistent information on the environmental impacts of textile and footwear products, Refashion proposes developing harmonized environmental labeling at the European level, based on the work of the PEFCR. This measure could be implemented by amending Directive 2010/30/EU on the labeling and provision of information regarding energy consumption and other resources for products, or any other relevant text.



### PROPOSITION N°10 – Enhance and reinvent careers in textile and footwear repair and reuse

#### CONTEXT

Repair and maintenance of textiles and footwear are essential to extending product lifespans, reducing waste, and supporting the circular economy. However, these professions lack recognition and are often undervalued, limiting their appeal and development.

Raising public awareness about the importance of repair professions can help foster a culture where consumers choose to repair or have their damaged textiles and footwear repaired instead of replacing them.

Additionally, incorporating specific modules on textile and footwear repair and maintenance into school curricula and vocational training programs is crucial. For decades, these skills have been insufficiently taught, creating a shortage of qualified professionals to replace retiring cobblers and tailors. By introducing dedicated training programs, we can prepare a new generation of repair specialists and artisans to meet the growing demand for these services.

Supporting these professions will also generate economic benefits by creating local jobs and boosting activity in the repair and reuse sector. This applies equally to reuse professions, which need to be developed and professionalized to transition the downstream supply chain from a model reliant on social and solidarity economy (SSE) actors to an industrial approach.

By valuing and training professionals in repair, we can not only extend the lifespan of textiles and footwear but also contribute to a more sustainable and resilient economy.

### WHERE DO WE CURRENTY STAND IN FRANCE?

In France, since 2023, the Repair Bonus has encouraged the repair of textiles and footwear by offering consumers discounts on repair costs. Refashion is currently analyzing ways to optimize the effectiveness of the Repair Fund and the Reuse Fund.



### **PROPOSAL**

Refashion proposes launching a European communication campaign to raise public awareness about repair and reuse professions, alongside integrating specific modules into school curricula and creating dedicated training programs. This initiative could be incorporated into the Erasmus+ program as well as the European Green Deal framework.

A European directive could be adopted to promote the inclusion of repair and maintenance modules in Member States' educational systems and to provide financial support for dedicated training programs.



# SUMMARY: REFASHION'S 10 PROPOSALS FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR EUROPEAN TEXTILE AND FOOTWEAR SECTOR

Refashion calls on the European Commission to issue a communication outlining actions for a Circular Textile and Footwear Sector and a Competitive European Textile Recycling Industry:

- 1. Set **binding and realistic collection and recycling targets** for textiles and footwear (TLC) in Europe under the Waste Framework Directive.
- 2. Include **all producers, including SMEs and microenterprises**, within the scope of the European TLC EPR scheme.
- 3. Incorporate **professional textiles and footwear** into the scope of the European TLC EPR scheme.
- 4. Establish a **single European register** for producers.
- 5. Create a European fund for the recycling of textiles and footwear.
- 6. Implement a reduced VAT rate on recycled materials.
- 7. Convene a European General Assembly on the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE).
- 8. Establish a European Forum on Textile Recycling.
- 9. Develop **harmonized European environmental labeling** and support consumer awareness campaigns.
- 10. Reinvent and enhance the **status of repair and reuse professions** for textiles and footwear.



### **ABOUT REFASHION**

### PRESENTATION AND MISSION

Approved for the first time in 2009 by the French Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Ministry of Economy, Refashion is the result of a multi-stakeholder initiative. To fulfill its public interest mission, Refashion works closely with all stakeholders in the Textiles, Home Linens, and Footwear (TLC) sector.

As the first and only producer responsibility organization (PRO) for the TLC sector in Europe, Refashion brings together brands; repair, reuse, collection, sorting, and recycling operators; local authorities; and consumers around a shared goal: to effectively support the transition toward a more circular and responsible fashion industry.

Refashion is guided by three key priorities:

- 1. Placing environmental benefits at the heart of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiatives.
- 2. Supporting the development of a sustainable recycling industry for textiles and footwear in France and Europe.
- 3. Meeting the legitimate expectations for transparency and traceability from all sector stakeholders.

More information here: refashion.fr