

### Statement on the documentation of LABRESH on the subject "The largest textile waste nations in Europe"

#### Analysis of LABFRESH scientifically untenable

The sales volumes of new textiles increase at a rapid pace and the markets for used textiles are limited. The volumes of used textiles unfit for reuse will increase. Thus, it is important that this subject is considered appropriately and in great depth.

In a publication titled "The largest textile waste nations in Europe", the fashion label Labfresh aims to identify quantities and backgrounds of textile consumption and textile waste in Europe. This requires a special diligence, which from the GftZ's perspective was not given within the scope of this documentation.

For instance, the basic assumptions in the methodology are untenable if, e.g. a total volume of textile waste from European Union statistics are unreflective converted to the population of the respective countries.

Country-specific aspects which would lead to different results within Europe are disregarded in the statements on recycling. On this basis results were published, which do not represent the facts in Germany correctly.

The GftZ refers to the fact that a study from the Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environment Agency) to estimate important data on usage and whereabouts was commissioned, and which is currently being worked on. Until these results are available, an older study of the bvse gives a rough overview.

The calculations for the reuse in Germany are also considerably wrong. Labfresh's publication estimates 8 per cent reuse, 10 per cent recycling, 24,3 per cent incineration and 57,1 per cent landfilling per capita. Thus, is it not a surprise that on the basis of these wrongful assumptions, more than half of the used textiles are landfilled in Germany according to Labfresh, although landfilling is legally impossible in Germany.

Labfresh's publication gives the impression that there is data on the situation of textiles available for all countries now. However, that is not the case. The GftZ considers it necessary for all European countries that reliable data is collected in a harmonized way and political decisions are made on the basis of the rapidly increasing volumes of used textiles. In particular, this means to create conditions for recycling textile fibers.

## Statement from 03.02.2020



About Gemeinschaft für textile Zukunft (GftZ – Future of Textiles Association)

A sustainable use of textiles and a high-quality collection, sorting and recycling of used textiles are the goals pursued by the GftZ since its foundation in 2014. Partners of the GftZ, with its headquarters based in Berlin, are companies with daily business in collection, sorting, recycling and marketing of used textiles.

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