

Stop illegal collection practices for used textiles

Future of Textiles Association is opposed to illegal collection practices

The Future of Textiles Association (GftZ) supports the fight against illegal collection practices for used textiles with expertise and educational work, and explicitly welcomes that illegal collection practices are publicly problematised.

Unfortunately, illegal collections are very common. This leads to a damaged image of the whole used textiles industry. Additionally, sustainable handling of used textiles is inhibited and the principle of free and fair competition is undermined. In this context, a report about “Illegal clothes containers“ was aired on 20 July 2016 by the German TV programme *plusminus* (ARD, 9:45pm). The report shows practices of German textile recycling plants (Deutsche Textilrecycling-Werke (DTRW)) as a part of a company group consisting of 15 companies, and demonstrates the difficulties on the part of the public authorities to prevent illegal collection and installation of such containers (the report is available at <http://www.daserste.de/information/wirtschaft-boerse/plusminus/sendung/illegale-alkleidercontainer-102.html>).

Companies that install illegal containers for collecting used textiles only pretend to be serious and professional which in return leads to municipalities and charities trusting those companies and sending them their goods. These goods are then collected outside the legal framework of used textiles. This connection is frequently not known.

GftZ urgently asks for attentiveness and offers its support to municipalities, associations as well as the press and the public for identifying and putting a stop to such practices.

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. The association focuses on the development and establishment of guidelines for the sustainable use and high-quality recycling of used textiles. Partners of the GftZ, which was founded in 2014 and has its headquarters in Berlin, are companies with daily business in collection, sorting, recycling and marketing of used textiles. GftZ is open to start a dialogue with interested stakeholders covering all questions regarding the future of textiles.

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Contact

Reinhardtstraße 34
10117 Berlin

P +49 30 26 93 18 89

F +49 30 26 94 97 47

M gemeinschaft@textile-zukunft.de