

High Quality Textile Recycling

New Interest Group advocates the Sustainable Use of Textiles

A sustainable use of textiles and, in consequence, a high quality collection, sorting and recycling of used textiles – these are the goals of the Gemeinschaft für textile Zukunft (GftZ – future of textiles association). The launch of the partnership under civil law (GbR) was announced at the German Parliamentary Society in Berlin today.

Founding shareholders of the GftZ, which is headquartered in Berlin, are M.W. Boer Beheer BV (Dordrecht/Bremen), Jean Bilsheim GmbH (Bayreuth) as well as SOEX Textil-Vermarktungsgesellschaft mbH (Bad Oldesloe), whose main business is the collection, sorting, recycling and commercialisation of used textiles.

Every year roughly 750,000 t of used textiles are collected and recycled. Because of the high prices the collected materials have generated in the recent past, used textiles have been high in demand. Despite this – or rather therefore – the volumes of used textiles collected in the domestic systems are sinking: On the one hand, specialised companies lose large quantities to illegal collection; on the other hand, public waste and recycling authorities often lack the technical expertise to incorporate quality criteria into their tender procedures. This enables service providers with less than optimal collection and recycling practices to enter the market.

Going forward, the question will be how a high quality and value creating collection and recycling of used textiles can be ensured, given the currently changing situation in Germany.

In order to fill the existing void, the development and implementation of a uniform standard for the collection, sorting and recycling of textiles is a central goal of the GftZ. This standard is intended as a guideline for market players and will help to make tender procedures consistently, precise and compliant with legal requirements. By guaranteeing the transparency of material flows through such a standard, enforcement will also be facilitated.

The principal task of the interest group is to further develop these ideas. The GftZ is open for a dialogue with interested stakeholders in all questions regarding the future of textiles. The group will also represent its interests in the political arena and through public relations.

www.textile-zukunft.de

Press release

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The GftZ receives technical and strategic support from cyclos GmbH.

Further information about the Gemeinschaft für textile Zukunft (Future of Textiles Association) is available at www.textile-zukunft.de.

About M.W. Boer Beheer BV:

The internationally active Boer Group, headquartered in Dordrecht, operates seven sorting plants. Its annual sorting volume is about 100,000 t.
(www.boergroup.nl)

About Jean Bilsheim GmbH:

Jean Bilsheim GmbH, whose headquarters are in Bayreuth, has been in the recycling business for over 75 years. Used textiles are processed in the sorting plant in Creußen.
(www.jean-bilsheim.de)

About SOEX Textil-Vermarktungsgesellschaft mbH:

SOEX Textilvermarktungsgesellschaft mbH has its headquarters in Bad Oldesloe and is a globally leading company in the commercialisation of used textiles. The modern sorting and recycling plant in Wolfen processes about 90,000 t of textiles annually.
(www.soexgroup.de)

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