



European
Commission

EU policy regarding textile waste

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Textiles in the EU

- Textile and clothing industry in the EU
 - Employs 1.7 million people in the EU and generates a turnover of EU 166 billion
- Wide sustainability aspects
 - Production
 - Use phase
 - End-of-life / after use
- Increased consumption
- Low rate of recycled content

Used textiles in the EU

- Limited data available
- Separate collection that facilitates
 - re-use
 - high-quality recycling
- Collection rates vary significantly within the EU

Textile waste prevention and treatment

- Reuse
 - Domestic reuse markets in Europe are limited to the top 10-20% in quality of used textiles.
- Recycling of textiles is limited
 - Sorting
 - Blended fibres
 - Legacy issues
 - Mechanical / chemical recycling

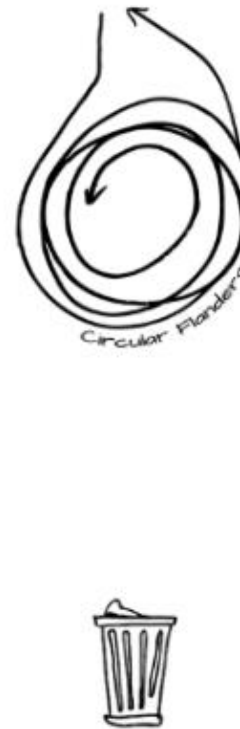
LINEAR ECONOMY



RECYCLING
ECONOMY



CIRCULAR
ECONOMY



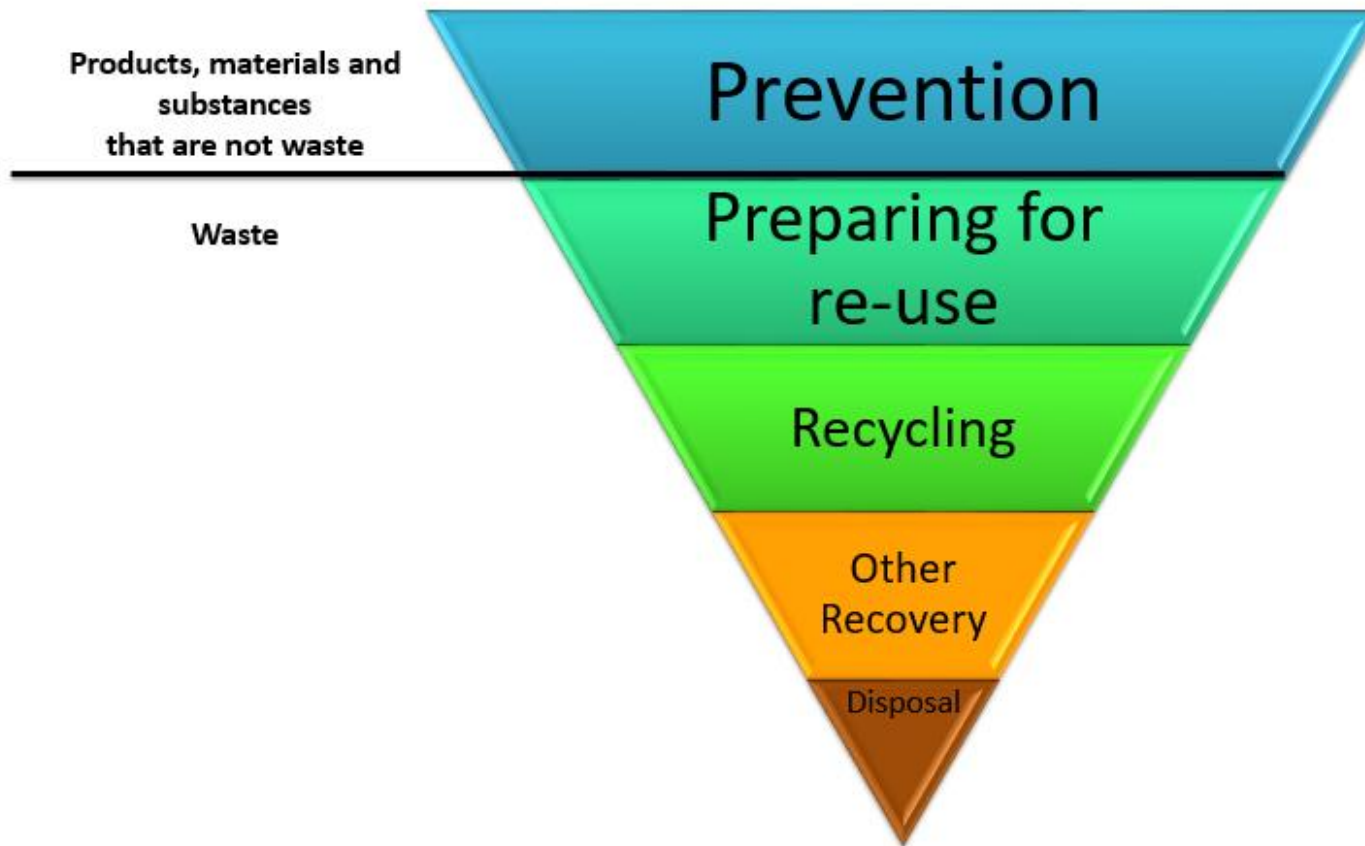
Source: Circular Flanders / OVAM (Public Waste Agency of Flanders)



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EU waste legislation

The Waste Hierarchy



The revised WFD

- Recycling targets for **municipal waste** and **packaging waste**
- **Landfill diversion targets** for municipal waste
- **Extended separate collection for municipal waste:** MS to ensure separate collection of at least paper, metal, plastic, glass, bio-waste (by end 2023), hazardous household waste and **textiles (by end 2024)**
- Minimum requirements for **EPR schemes**

Waste Prevention

MS shall take measures to prevent waste generation, incl.:

- Encourage the re-use of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and re-use activities, including in particular for [...] **textiles** [...]
- Promote sustainable production + consumption models
- Promote reuse and repair [..]
- MS shall develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering

Revisions & Follow-up

- Art. 11 (1) requires Member States to set up **separate collection** at least for paper, metal, plastic and glass, and, by 1 January 2025, for **textiles**.
- Art. 11 (6), states that, by 31 December 2024, the Commission shall consider the setting of **preparing for re-use** and **recycling targets** for a.o. **textile waste**.

Revisions & Follow-up

- Commission to establish a common methodology to report on **re-use of products**
- By the end of 2024, Commission shall consider the feasibility of measures to encourage the **re-use of products**

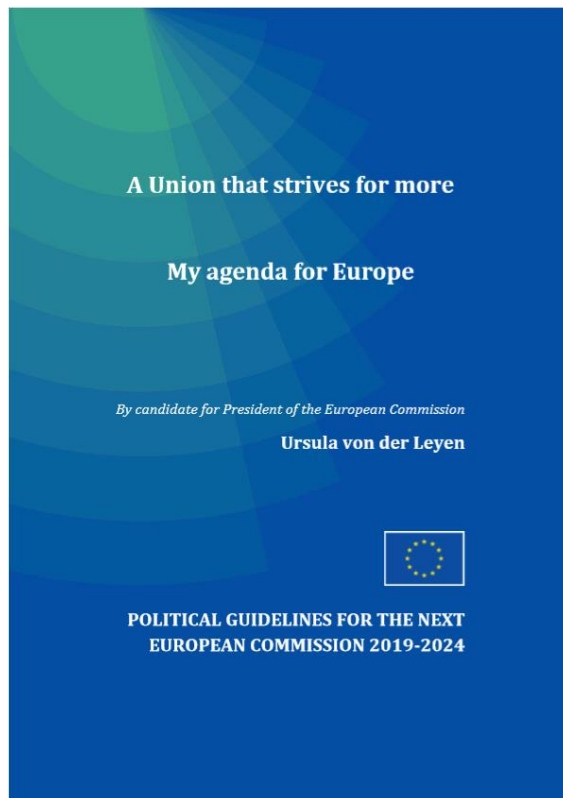
Guidance on separate collection

- Ongoing study to support the Commission in establishing guidelines for separate collection of waste
- Plastic waste, bio-waste, **textile waste**, hazardous household waste

EPR

- Ongoing study to support preparation of the Commission's guidance on the implementation of the **general minimum requirements for extended producer responsibility schemes** set out in Article 8a of the revised WFD

POLITICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE NEXT EUROPEAN COMMISSION 2019-2024



- *"I will propose a **European Green Deal** in my first 100 days in office."*
- *"I will propose a **New Circular Economy Action Plan** focusing on sustainable resource use, especially in resource-intensive and high-impact sectors such as **textiles** and construction."*

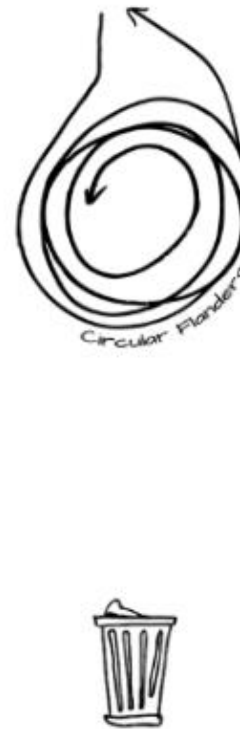
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**Learn more about EU
policy on the circular
economy and waste:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/
circular-economy/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm)

[ec.europa.eu/environment/**waste**](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste)