

**Question for written answer E-001765/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Aurélia Beigneux (ID)**

Subject: Impact of the textile sector on the environment

The fashion industry is having a serious impact on our environment. The textile sector is the fifth largest emitter of greenhouse gases and the second largest industry in terms of land use. It is the world's third largest consumer of water: indeed, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), some 93 billion cubic metres of water<sup>1</sup> - enough to meet the needs of 5 million people - are used by the textile industry annually.

One of the main problems is the phenomenon of 'fast fashion'. Brands offer textiles with much shorter lifespans and some have moved from the traditional spring/summer and autumn/winter collections to a dozen collections a year. According to a study by the consulting firm McKinsey & Company<sup>2</sup>, the lifespan of clothing has halved over the past 15 years. Finally, almost a third of the clothes owned by Europeans have not been worn for at least a year, according to the European Environment Agency<sup>3</sup>.

In the light of this ecological and environmental catastrophe, does the Commission plan to introduce 'environmental labelling' on clothing labels to inform consumers of the ecological impact of their purchases?

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<sup>1</sup> UN launches drive to highlight environmental cost of staying fashionable, UN News.

<sup>2</sup> Style that's sustainable: A new fast-fashion formula, McKinsey.

<sup>3</sup> Environmental impact of textile and clothes industry (europa.eu).