

**Question for written answer E-000028/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The European textile sector and environmental responsibility

On 20 December 2022, the Commission published the best available techniques (BATs) for the textile sector. These BATs highlight the industry's significant impact on global pollution levels and identify areas for improvement.

While these BATs largely focus on water consumption¹ – which is indeed particularly significant in the textile industry – other areas have not been covered in as much detail. However, the sector is also known for using potentially dangerous chemicals and unsustainable raw materials. Certain raw textile materials, such as cotton, are cultivated intensively and may require the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. In addition, certain fabrics (such as polyester and nylon) are made from non-renewable raw materials (namely petroleum).

In this context,

1. What steps will the Commission take to encourage more responsible use of raw materials and chemicals in this sector?
2. Given that the European textile industry is a niche sector which is highly vulnerable to foreign competition, are these BATs, and the rules laid down in the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, appropriate?

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¹ The textile manufacturing process requires large quantities of water, particularly for growing the raw materials and dyeing and washing fabrics.