

Press Release No. 34/2011

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For our Environment

Environmental standards for jackets and trousers

More sustainability in production of textiles and shoes

Federal Environment Agency (UBA), industrial and commercial enterprises, associations in the textile and shoe industry, and civic institutions are all toeing the same line on sustainable development: improve environmental standards in textile and shoe production worldwide. President Jochen Flasbarth of the Federal Environment Agency applauds brand-name producers and commercial enterprises for increasingly making environmental standards a condition for whom they contract as suppliers. “The global network of the textile and shoe production chain must finally have environmental standards that also have global effect and are not limited just to the EU, where only a fraction of the volume is still produced,” said Flasbarth. Commercial enterprises will play a key role in that their purchasing policy will put the concept into motion and lead to transfer of know-how.

Participating enterprises will benefit from this collaboration along with consumers. The former can save resources such as energy and water and also cut costs. Costs for wastewater and flue gas scrubbing are also reduced, for if waste products can be minimised from the onset there are fewer costs for their clean-up. Investment in operational environmental measures pays off for companies in the medium- to long-term, and consumers stand to profit as well. According to the current environmental awareness study by UBA, two out of every three persons look for products whose production leaves as small a footprint on the environment as possible. One objective of commerce and industry must be to improve protection of our environment while retaining the majority of its customers.

Today in Berlin the cooperation partners of the “Environmental Standards in the Textile Shoe Industries” forum will present the brochure by the same name which addresses a worldwide audience of textile and shoe manufacturers. The main goal of the brochure is to open up a practical dialogue with manufacturers. The manual addresses the actual phases of production, outlines improvements in technology and processes, and points out how in-company environmental protection can already pay off during the production phase. A few examples of steps that provide great environmental relief are training courses for staff and inspection of factories. As a result, water and energy consumption are reduced, and resources are saved.

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Further information and links:

Download brochure: [Umweltstandards in der Textil- und Schuhbranche \[Environmental Standards in the Textile and Shoe Industries\] \(in German\)](#)

[Participating corporations and institutions in the Working Group "Environmental Standards in the Textile and Shoe Industries"](#)

Dessau-Roßlau, 28 June 2001