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Data gathering for the Digital Product Passport

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The Digital Product Passport (DPP), as outlined in the Ecodesign Regulation, will include information on a product's environmental performance and its lifecycle across factories and economic operators. While the exact level of detail is yet to be determined, companies will need to collect data across the entire supply chain—potentially from raw material production through to the product's end of life.

Current data-gathering practices and insights from DPP pilot projects indicate that manufacturing companies throughout the value chain will face similar or even identical information requests from business partners worldwide.

The complexity and volume of data-gathering operations—whether manual or semi-automated—pose a serious challenge to the supply chain's capacity to generate, manage, and transmit accurate information on products and their components.

Experience from the banking industry shows that mandating data sharing without established standards increases complexity and leads to delays. These challenges have been mitigated where authorities have convened stakeholder working groups to define common standards.

To ensure the successful rollout of the DPP and facilitate information sharing with consumers, authorities, and business partners, EURATEX calls on the European Commission and relevant stakeholders to engage in harmonising data-gathering processes across the textile value chain.

Standardisation and a reference framework are essential—both for large and small IT developers, and for textile value chain actors. This effort should begin with two core priorities:
1. Defining **what** is the content, and
2. Defining **how** it is shared.

Priorities for Standardisation
1. **Define the content**. Develop a **reference semantic framework and data models** for the information to be exchanged—including vocabularies, data structures, and IT implementation guidelines. These models should be "ready to use" for specific sectors, while also enabling cross-sectoral interoperability through specialised nomenclatures. The framework must be tailored to sector-specific needs without relying on proprietary company systems.
2. **Define the exchange method**. Establish **reference protocols for data exchange** that ensure information can be transferred easily and securely.

The outcome of this standardisation effort should allow **textile and apparel companies to provide the required information once, and reuse it for multiple purposes**.