

Paris Declaration

Adopted at the French national seminar

Joint Statement of the Social Partners in the context of the STITCH Together Project

Paris, July 10, 2025

The textile industry is a key sector of French industry. Several factors, such as unfair global competition, inflation, and rising energy costs, have led in recent years to site closures and a decline in production. Nevertheless, France remains a leader in the manufacturing of luxury goods, recognized worldwide, as well as in the production of high value-added textiles, such as technical textiles used in aerospace, automotive sectors, and medical textiles.

In this context of an industry undergoing major innovation, the French social partners, employers and trade unions, reaffirm their commitment to act together for a competitive, attractive, sustainable, and socially responsible textile sector.

This statement is part of the European **STITCH Together** project, which aims to strengthen social dialogue, support a just transition, and promote sustainable development in the textile industry at the European level.

Our joint commitments

1. Strengthening Social Dialogue

We reaffirm our commitment to maintaining regular social dialogue based on trust between employers and employee representatives. We will support dialogue bodies, ensuring their proper functioning and representativeness.

2. Sector Competitiveness

We stress the need for an environment that enables companies, particularly SMEs, to grow competitively and in a socially responsible manner, within a stable legislative and regulatory framework.

3. Supporting a green and circular transition together

In a globalized economy, we will work to integrate climate, energy efficiency, and circular economy challenges by promoting eco-design, responsible relocation, and the reuse of raw materials within French textile value chains. We commit to strengthening due diligence practices, particularly in supply

chains. We will share best practices in CSR (corporate social responsibility) and encourage transparent communication regarding the social and environmental impacts of companies in the sector.

4. Training, Innovation, and Skills Anticipation

We will enhance existing sectoral training programs and lifelong learning initiatives. We will set up reskilling and skills development pathways for workers impacted by sectoral transformations, especially those related to the digital transition, including the use of artificial intelligence, and the green transition. We emphasize the need for public investment at both European and national levels to support these training programs and pathways.

5. Making the Sector More Attractive and Accessible

We will act together to attract young people, experienced professionals, and those undergoing career transitions. We will promote the inclusion of individuals who are distant from employment, working in collaboration with training organizations, apprenticeship centers, vocational high schools, and France Travail, with the involvement of local authorities. We advocate for quality, stable employment that is accessible to all, fighting against job insecurity and discrimination. We will support initiatives that better connect initial training, work-study programs, continuing education, and the real needs of businesses.

6. Ensuring Decent Work and Protecting Purchasing Power

We reaffirm our commitment to fair, safe, and rights-respecting working conditions. We will fight against all forms of discrimination and ensure equal treatment regardless of origin, gender, age, disability, or beliefs. We will continue to explore collective solutions to maintain workers' purchasing power in the face of inflation and the rising cost of living, ensuring everyone can live with dignity. The social partners will make proposals to facilitate the reemployment of workers from the garment industry who have lost their jobs, allowing them to transition more easily into the broader textile industry.

We aspire to a competitive French textile industry that creates sustainable jobs, allows businesses to grow, and provides a workplace where each worker can thrive, receive training, be respected, and have a voice.

We believe the future of the textile sector in France depends on cooperation between social partners, innovation, and social justice. Together, we can preserve traditional savoir-faire and anticipate upcoming transformations, particularly in terms of green and digital transition.

Additional information:

As of December 31, 2023, the French textile industry employs approximately 58,550 workers and includes around 2,400 companies, mainly SMEs, according to data from the Union des Industries Textiles (source: Pragma Études). The clothing sector consists of approximately 1,710 companies and 27,700 employees (source: DARES).

Signatory organisations

