


Convenant: Current situation



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The Agreement in brief

The Dutch Agreement on Sustainable Garments and Textile is supported by a growing coalition of companies, sector organisations, trade unions, national government, civil-society organisations (NGOs), and expert organisations. The goal is that in 2020, at least 80 per cent of the Dutch garments and textile sector will have signed the Agreement.

With their signatures, participants declare their commitment to the goals of the Agreement, which involve working for better labour conditions and dealing appropriately with animals and the environment. Companies undertake to investigate their chain to define the risks of being involved in abuses in the areas of human rights, the environment and animal welfare, and how they can deal with such risks. This is done through due diligence according to the OECD guidelines: drawing up RBC policy, analysis of the chain, risk analysis and prioritisation, tackling the risks, and access to remedial action, monitoring and communication.

Moving forwards step by step

In the course of the Agreement, participating companies are expected to keep taking further steps. We have now reached year 3.

- Year 1: companies gain a clear picture of their production chain and make a list of production sites, which the Secretariat adds to the aggregated list. In addition, companies draw up an action plan in which they investigate the risks in their chain and set priorities. They also identify specific, achievable goals for tackling the risks.
- Year 2: companies start to implement their action plan, in cooperation with trade unions, civil-society organisations, and government. They produce a progress report each year. Because the available information and a company's experience increase over time, the goals can be made increasingly refined. The process of due diligence is therefore continuously being worked through and improved.

- Year 3: companies communicate their action plan to the outside world. On their website and in annual reports, they explain their risks and how they deal with them.

Results achieved in 2018

1. **Expansion of production site list:** from 2802 production sites (end-2017) to 4268 (end-2018).
Result: greater transparency in the chain.
2. **Rise in the number of participating brands to 92, which represents 48% of the Dutch market.**
Result: greater joint influence both in the Netherlands and internationally.
3. **Greater understanding of materials** used in the sector.
Result: more informed choices lead to a switch to using more sustainable materials.
4. **Setting up and carrying out collective projects, training courses, workshops and tools.**
Result: more knowledge and skills for enhancing sustainability of processes and products.
5. **Introduction of assessment framework for action plans.**
Result: learning together, giving companies practical help, and joint action.
6. **Assessment of the action plans** by the Secretariat; Facts & figures.
Result: greater transparency regarding joint progress.
7. **More international cooperation with other initiatives, such as the German partnership, the Fair Labour Association (FLA), and the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC).**
Result: cooperation strengthens collective influence and international support.