

Outlook



Companies that have been signatories to the Agreement from the outset are expected this year to publish individually what the greatest risks are in their chain and how they deal with those risks.

The problems in the textile chain are large, complex and intractable. The Dutch Agreement for Sustainable Garments and Textile has a limited impact on the global market. However, the Agreement demonstrates that companies can achieve structural changes if they make sustainable decisions. By conducting sound due diligence, they discover where the risks are located in their supply chain and they can address problems in factories. They can do this, for example, by changing their purchasing practice and by engaging in discussions with suppliers about improvements.

Communication about risks and action

In 2019, the parties to the Agreement are embarking on the following step together, building on the knowledge acquired over the past years. Companies that have been signatories to the Agreement from the outset are expected this year to publish individually what the greatest risks are in their chain and how they deal with those risks. In doing this, they will also set out the dilemmas they have faced and their struggles. The reason for taking this step is the conviction that transparency helps to stimulate change and to raise awareness in the entire sector and among consumers.

Once again, there are various training courses on the agenda in 2019, for example on the living wage, gender, and purchasing practices.

Interim evaluation

In 2019, an interim evaluation will consider how the Agreement has been working up to now. An independent external evaluator will report on the extent to which the Agreement is on the right path to achieve the Agreement's objectives. The evaluator is asked to make recommendations on how cooperation under the Agreement and its approach can be strengthened over the next 2 1/2 years in order to achieve the common goals.

Furthermore, the OECD is looking at the extent to which the Dutch Agreement, the German Partnership, and the Sustainable Apparel Coalition contribute to the OECD guidelines. Both reports are expected in the course of 2019. The recommendations will be very valuable for improving the Agreement further.