

# Where to start with standards on circularity

Tip and tricks

Edwin Maes - Centexbel

# Centexbel - VKC

## Centre of textile and plastic competence

- Collective research and technical knowledge institute
  - Governed by the industry
- Membership organisation
  - Belgian textile companies
  - Associated (international) members, companies and organisations
- Employees
  - 180 highly educated and trained employees



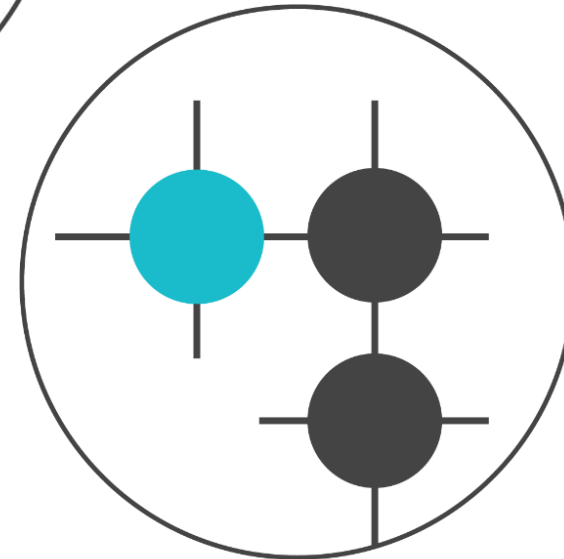
CREATE



INSPIRE



SOLVE



CONNECT



# Edwin Maes – Personal experience

- Convenor of CEN TC 248 Textiles and textile products WG 39 circularity in the textile chain
- Consultant in Clothing textiles 10 years
  - Quality – Test standards
  - General product safety – Safety standards
  - Composition & Labelling requirements – Testing standards
  - Sustainability – ...
- Greenwashing emerges



# Why greenwashing emerged

- Governmental push
  - Due to the Circular procurement in the Netherlands (pioneer)
  - Greenwashing emerged
  - Need for a set of rules on circular textiles
- NEN created on demand of the industry the Norm commission Circular Textile
  - NTA 8195 - Circular textile - Requirements and categories
    - Input material classification
      - Use - Recycle – Remanufacture – Repair - Reuse
      - Source - Pre consumer – Post production material – Post production waste – Open loop
  - Certification scheme
- A Technical agreement (TA) in stead of a NEN
  - There was a high need - Goes faster
  - New theme and little knowledge - Easier to adapt



# International trade - CEN

- The NTA 8195 was then presented to the TC 248 Textiles and Textile products
  - It was translated from Dutch – terminology errors due to a double translation
- Decided to start a new working group – WG 39
- Alignment - Many meetings and many new experts needed
  - Many discussions on the need of the standards
  - Huge discussion on the terminology – Vienna agreement - ISO
  - Result the structure of the standards to be developed changed
- Main reason
  - The lack of knowledge
  - Resist change
  - Own agendas

# EU policy

## Key actions in the Textiles Strategy



Set **design requirements for textiles** to make them last longer, easier to repair and recycle, as well as requirements on minimum recycled content



Introduce clearer information and a **Digital Product Passport**



**Tackle greenwashing** to empower consumers and raise awareness about sustainable fashion



Reverse **overproduction and overconsumption**, and **discourage** the destruction of unsold or returned textiles



Propose mandatory **Extended Producer Responsibility for textiles with eco-modulation of fees**



Address the **unintentional release of microplastics** from synthetic textiles



Restrict the **export of textile waste** and promote sustainable textiles globally




Incentivise **circular business models**, including reuse and repair sectors



Encourage companies and Member States to **support the objectives** of the Strategy



# Circulaire economie

- CEN TC 248 WG 39 Textiles - Circular Economy for textile products and the textile chain
  - NTA 8195 split up:
    - Draft ISO/WD 5157 Textiles - Environmental Aspects – Vocabulary
      - ISO/TC 038/WG 35 "Environmental aspects"
      - [Vienna Agreement](#)
    - Part 1: General principles and guidance
    - Part 2: Categorization of and requirements on non-virgin input materials
    - Part 3: Design for circularity
    - Part 4: Product information/ Digital product passport (on hold)
  - 3 Minimum Quality standards – perhaps different levels
    - Minimum Quality for Clothing
    - Minimum Quality for Workwear
    -  Minimum Quality for bath, bed and kitchen textiles

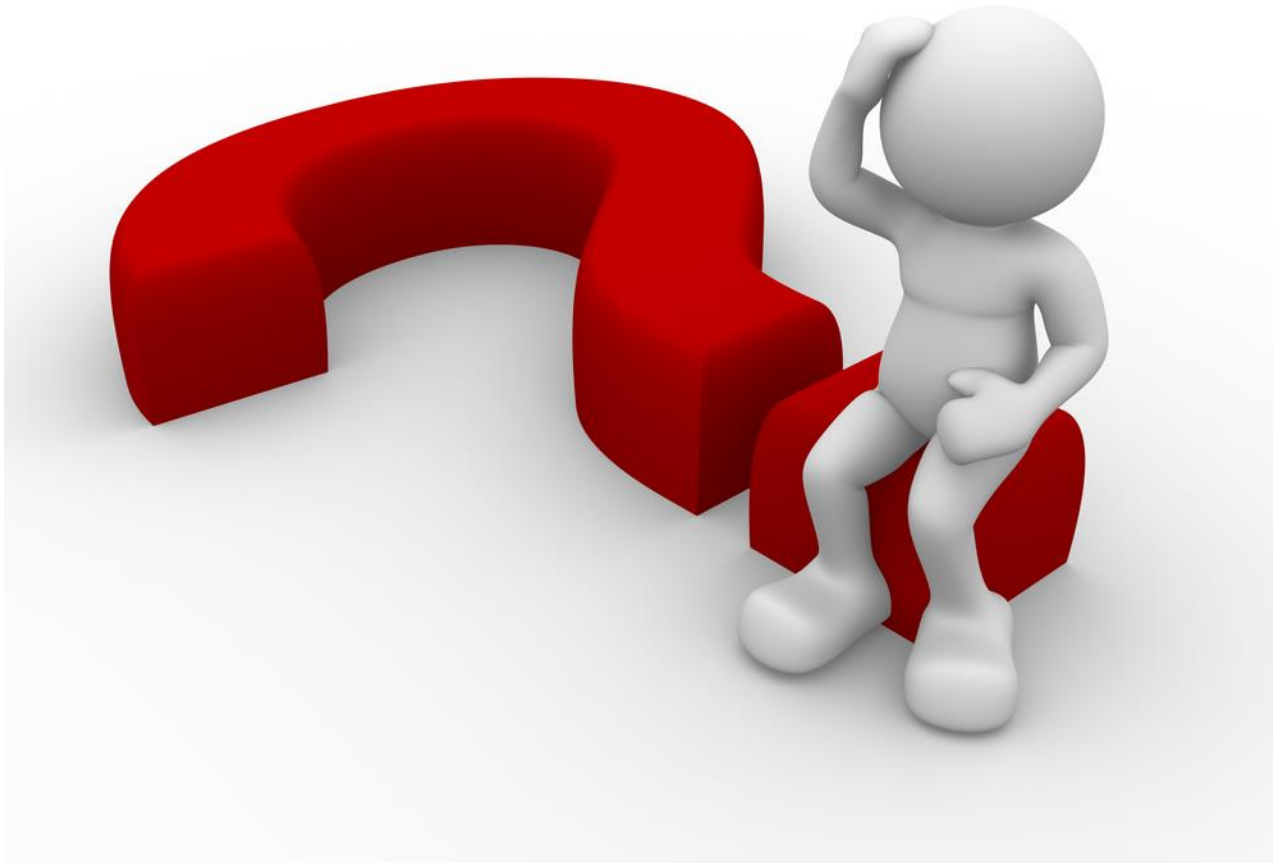


# What did I learn

- Look at the need from the industry !
- Get new stakeholder on board from the start
  - Analyze the expert's background – what is missing
  - Invite new experts yourself
- Look at what the EU policy on the topic
  - Try to predict their needs
- Inform the experts
  - Give presentations to bring the experts up to speed on the topic
- Research projects can deliver important information
  - Interreg - Circutex and H2020 - tExtended
  - Product passport
- Liaisons with other TC's
  - Other standards are useful and can be implemented
- Work together with ISO
  - Terminology – look at other standards in CEN and ISO – align as much as possible !
- Choose for a TS in stead of an EN, you will need to adapt as much as possible
- Don't integrate circularity aspects in standards with other topics
  - Develop separate standard that can rereferred to implemented in the existing standards
- Difficult topic ! – Need for physical meetings



# Questions ?



# Thank you



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