

**OECD Workshop  
on Microplastics from synthetic textiles in the Environment:  
Knowledge, Mitigation and Policy**

*Supported by the Government of Sweden*

**AGENDA**

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**Tuesday 11 February 2020**  
*OECD Headquarters, Paris*  
*Conference Centre, room CC10*

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## Background

Scientists are gathering mounting evidence that microplastics (commonly defined as plastic particles whose diameter is below 5mm) are everywhere – from the remotest mountains and the deepest parts of the ocean, to our local rivers, drinking water, food products and the air we breathe.

Microplastics generated during the use phase of textiles are not targeted by the current policy framework on plastic waste and pollution. Yet, they are estimated to be one of the largest contributors to microplastics pollution in terms of volumes released to the oceans.

Policymakers need tools and instruments that contribute to effective management of textile-based microplastics. Part of the challenge is the increasing need to find cost-effective solutions across the textiles chain – from fabric design and production, through to disposal and wastewater treatment.

## Aim and objectives of the workshop

The aim of the workshop is to deliver preliminary policy recommendations to mitigate and manage synthetic microfibers in the environment. The objective is to gather environmental policy makers, scientists, industrial representatives, water and wastewater utilities, IGOs and civil society to discuss synthetic textiles and microplastics, specifically in relation to:

- The latest science on the environmental fate, bioaccumulation and quantification of microplastics in the environment, and their impacts of on ecosystems, wildlife and human health
- Mitigation strategies and technologies to prevent or mitigate textile-based microplastics , and their relative cost efficiency
- Policy instruments, best practices and initiatives (proposed and implemented) to reduce the environmental impact of microplastics originating from synthetic textiles
- Barriers to more effective policy and management of synthetic microfibres in the environment, and how these may be overcome.

The workshop is designed to be interactive and is held under Chatham House rules. Each session starts with a series of short presentations, followed by a moderated discussion on the themes raised.

## Expected outcomes of the workshop

At the end of the expert workshop, it is anticipated that participants will have:

- Obtained a holistic view and an improved understanding of the microfiber problem and its inherent risk potential and negative impacts on the freshwater and ocean environments.
- Identified potential areas/topics for research on microplastic pollution and standardisation in microplastic characterisation and quantification.
- Discussed potential solutions to the microfiber problem across the textile value chain: garment design and manufacturing, garment care during the use-phase, textile waste disposal and collection, wastewater treatment.
- Discussed preliminary policy recommendations and actions for central government and other stakeholders to reduce the leakage of microfibers in the environment, including regulatory, market-based and information policy tools as well as voluntary industry initiatives.
- Established a network in the field of microplastic research, technology, industry, and policy development.

The outcomes of the workshop will inform an OECD report on policy responses to mitigate secondary microplastics in the freshwater and marine environments, which will feature case studies and conclude with policy recommendations.

This project is developed under the joint auspices of two OECD working groups – the Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems and the Working Party on Resource Productivity and Waste.

## Background reading material

- Background note on microplastics (to be shared in advance of the workshop).
- Country delegates to OECD working parties may wish to refer to the Proposed Programme of Work: OECD work on microplastics in the freshwater and marine environments (documents ENV/EPOC/WPBWE(2019)10 and ENV/EPOC/WPRPW(2020)3).

Please note that in an attempt to go paperless, hard copies of the above documents will not be available at the workshop.

## Workshop Agenda

<b>11 February 2020</b>	
<b>08:00 – 09:30</b>	<i>Registration</i>
<b>09:30 – 09:45</b>	<p><b>OPENING REMARKS: AIMS, EXPECTATIONS AND STRUCTURE OF WORKSHOP</b></p> <p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Rodolfo Lacy, Director, OECD Environment Directorate</li> <li>○ Ms. Anna Brandt, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OECD</li> </ul>
<b>09:45 – 10:15</b>	<p><b>1. MICROPLASTICS: AN OVERVIEW OF THE LATEST SCIENCE</b></p> <p>Presentation (20’):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prof. Richard C. Thompson OBE, Professor of Marine Biology, Director of the Marine Institute, University of Plymouth <i>“Microplastics in the oceans: sources, impacts and solutions?”</i></li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A (10’)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is the contribution of the textile industry to microplastics pollution?</li> <li>○ What don't we know? What are the future research priorities?</li> <li>○ What are the consequences (economic, social and environmental) of business as usual?</li> </ul>
<b>10:15 – 10:45</b>	<p><i>Morning tea</i></p> <p><i>Post-it notes from Participants with issues and questions for the Moderators to raise in discussions</i></p>
<b>10:45 – 12:15</b>	<p><b>2. PREVENTING MICROPLASTICS LEAKAGE: THE ROLE OF TEXTILE DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING</b></p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>Ms. Cristina Tébar Less, Acting Head of the OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct</p> <p>Panel interventions (40’):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ms. Laura Balmond, Programme Manager, Make Fashion Circular, Ellen McArthur Foundation <i>“Circular design for Fashion: Designing out waste and pollution”</i></li> <li>○ Ms. Anne-Charlotte Hanning, Researcher, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden <i>“Looking for microplastic release hotspots from textiles: findings so far”</i></li> <li>○ Prof. Ellen Bendt, University of Applied Sciences Niederrhein <i>“TextileMission: Development of functional textiles with reduced output of synthetic microparticles”</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Paula Félix-De-Castro, Senior Researcher, LEITAT Technological Centre <i>“Influence of fabric properties and production process conditions on reducing microplastics release”</i></li> <li>○ Mr. Christoffer Immanuel, Founder and Co-CEO, Organic Basics</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion and open Q&amp;A (60’):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What opportunities are available (and in the pipeline) to mitigate microfibre shedding from textiles at the level of product design and manufacturing?</li> <li>○ What would be the costs of implementation (both financial and organisational)?</li> <li>○ How do potential microplastics mitigation strategies fit into the broader circular economy agenda for the textile sector?</li> <li>○ What is the extent of microfibre shedding occurring during manufacturing?</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:15-13:15</b></p>	<p><i>Lunch Break</i></p>
<p><b>13:15-14:30</b></p>	<p><b>3. MITIGATING MICROPLASTICS LEAKAGE DURING THE USE-PHASE OF TEXTILES</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <p>Ms. Hannah Leckie, Policy Analyst, OECD Environment Directorate</p> <p><b>Panel interventions (35’):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Francesca de Falco, Research Fellow, Italian national Research Council <i>“Microplastic release from textiles: quantification and mitigation strategies”</i></li> <li>○ Dr. Peter Ross, Vice-President of Research, Ocean Wise <i>“Tackling microfiber pollution at source: a solution-oriented partnership across public and private sectors”</i></li> <li>○ Mr. Marko Schnarr, Officer for Resource efficiency, Environmental assessment and eco-labelling, Miele <i>“Mitigating microfiber pollution: the home appliances perspective”</i></li> <li>○ Prof. Andrej Kržan, Chief Research Officer, Planet Care <i>“PlanetCare filters for microfibres from washing: a solution for today”</i></li> <li>○ Mr. Alexander Nolte, Co-founder, Guppyfriend Washing bag <i>“Behaviour change to STOP! Microplastics”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion and open Q&amp;A (40’):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What are best practices to mitigate the release of MPs during the use-phase of textiles?</li> <li>○ What are the available technologies? How cost-effective are they?</li> <li>○ What are the economic, technological, behavioural barriers to their roll-out?</li> <li>○ How could policies support technological development and diffusion?</li> </ul>

<p><b>14:30 – 15:45</b></p>	<p><b>4. CLEAN UP: REMOVAL OF MICROFIBRES FROM WASTEWATER AND BIOSOLIDS THROUGH WASTEWATER TREATMENT</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <p>Mr. Bruno Tisserand, Research Program Director for cities at Veolia, and Chairperson of the Committee on Economics and Legal Affairs, EurEau</p> <p><b>Panel interventions (35')</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Josiane Nikiema, Research Group Leader – Circular Economy and Water Pollution, International Water Management Institute <i>“Removal of microplastics during wastewater treatment: Challenges, opportunities and uncertainties”</i></li> <li>○ Dr. Andy Booth, Senior Research Scientist, SINTEF Ocean, Norway <i>“Solutions for removing microplastic from wastewater treatment plant effluents”</i></li> <li>○ Dr. Thibaut Saur, Research Engineer, Suez <i>“Global assessment of microplastic pollution in wastewater treatment plants”</i></li> <li>○ Dr. Greet De Guedre, Advisor Strategy, Aquafin, and Chair of JWG Pollutants, EurEau <i>“Perspective of Flanders and EurEau on mitigation of microplastics from textiles through wastewater treatment”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion and open Q&amp;A (40')</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of different wastewater treatment technologies in the removal of microplastics?</li> <li>○ What are the options to prevent the transfer of microplastics to soil via sludge application? What are the alternatives and trade-offs?</li> <li>○ What is the potential of emerging, innovative solutions for the removal of microplastics from wastewaters and sludge?</li> </ul>
<p><b>15:45 – 16:15</b></p>	<p><i>Afternoon tea</i></p>
<p><b>16:15– 17:45</b></p>	<p><b>5. DEVELOPING PRELIMINARY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO TACKLE MICROPLASTICS POLLUTION FROM TEXTILES</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <p>Mr. Peter Börkey, Senior Policy Analyst, Environmental Directorate, OECD</p> <p><b>Panel interventions (40'):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Marco Manfroni, Policy Officer, DG GROW - Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear sectors, European Commission <i>“EU policy agenda on plastic and micro-plastics from synthetic textiles”</i></li> <li>○ Mr. Mauro Scalia, Director Sustainable Businesses, EURATEX <i>“Informed decision making to tackle microfibre leakage”</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ms. Kerstin Bly Joyce, Environmental Economist, and Ms. Lena Stig, Sustainable Plastic Use, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency <i>“Swedish policy experiences and initiatives to reduce microplastics from textiles”</i></li> <li>○ Mr. Alex Cavadias, Manager, Coatings and Solvents Section, Products Division of Environment and Climate Change Canada <i>“Canadian Approach on Plastics and Microfibers”</i></li> <li>○ Ms. Mary Creagh, Former Chair of the UK House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee <i>“Fixing fashion: clothing consumption and sustainability”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion and open Q&amp;A (35’)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What are the key entry points to implement mitigation solutions for microplastics pollution from textiles?</li> <li>○ What are the most appropriate policy tools to prevent the leakage of textile-based microplastics into the environment?</li> <li>○ What are the priorities for policy-makers and the industry?</li> <li>○ Who should pay for the cost of microplastics pollution? How should this be calculated? Who should bear the costs of mitigation and clean-up?</li> <li>○ What policy responses are currently being implemented to manage microplastic pollution from textiles? What lessons can be learned?</li> </ul>
<b>17:45 – 18:00</b>	<p><b>CLOSING SESSION</b></p> <p>Final remarks from the OECD: Take-home messages and next steps</p>
<b>18:00</b>	<p><i>Workshop adjourns</i></p>