Sustainable and Circular Textiles
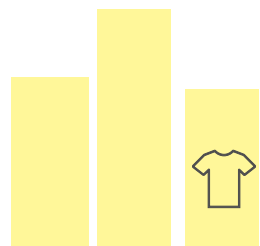
Paola Migliorini
Deputy Head of Unit
Circular Economy, Sustainable Consumption and Production
DG Environment
European Commission

Why act?

80%
Of postconsumer textiles goes to incineration or landfill

3rd
European consumption of textiles is one of the top 3 pressures on water and land use
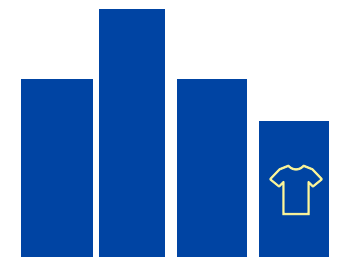
€282 billion spent on clothing
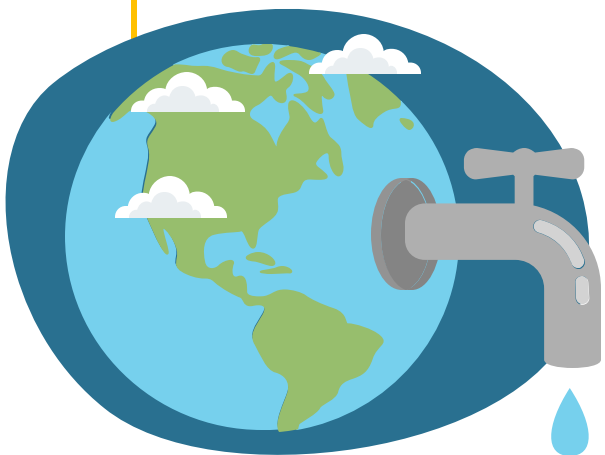
5 million tonnes
Of clothing and footwear are discarded every year

4th
European consumption of textiles has the fourth highest impact on the environment and climate change

European Commission

'It's like a death pit': how Ghana became fast fashion's dumping ground

Vogue
https://www.vogue.com › Fashion › Sustainability

Can Fashion Break Free From Its Addiction to Plastic?

01 Aug 2023 — "It's cheap," Harding-Rolls says. "**Fast fashion** relies on cheap labour and cheap materials, and it relies on zero responsibility for the end of ...

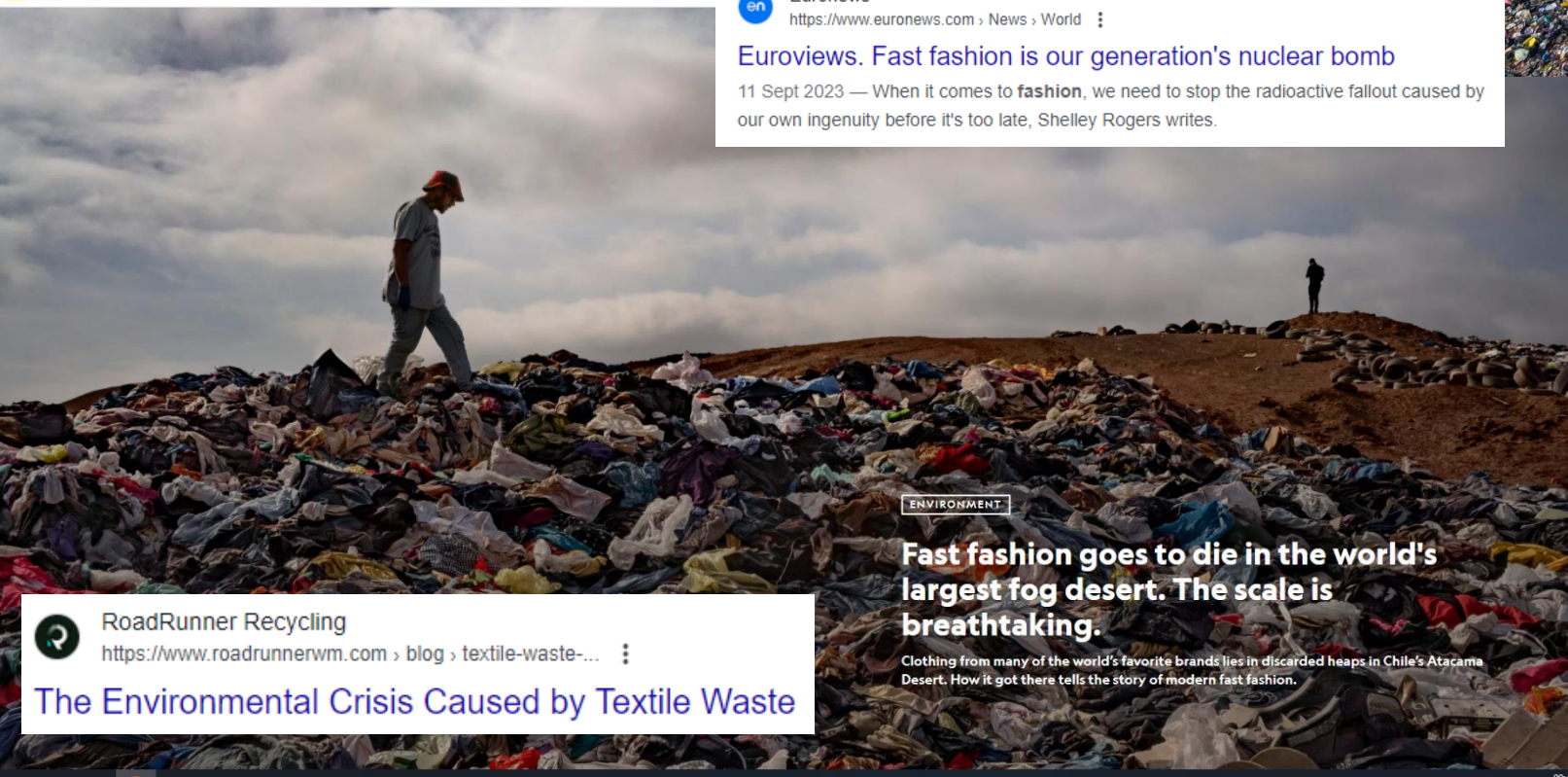Euronews
https://www.euronews.com › News › World

Euroviews. Fast fashion is our generation's nuclear bomb

11 Sept 2023 — When it comes to **fashion**, we need to stop the radioactive fallout caused by our own ingenuity before it's too late, Shelley Rogers writes.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

SKYFI

ENVIRONMENT
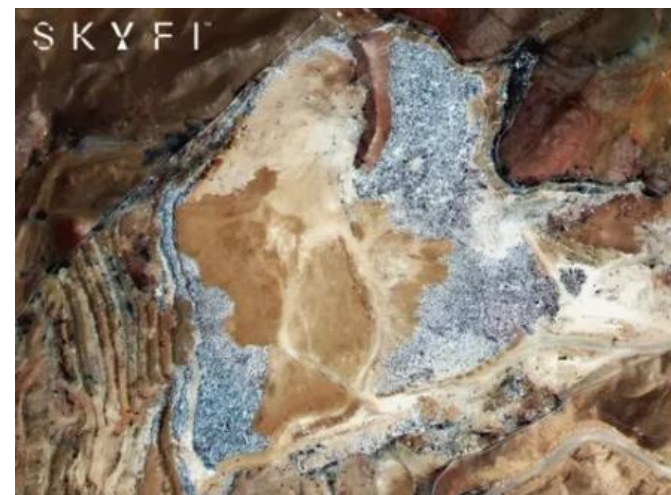
Fast fashion goes to die in the world's largest fog desert. The scale is breathtaking.
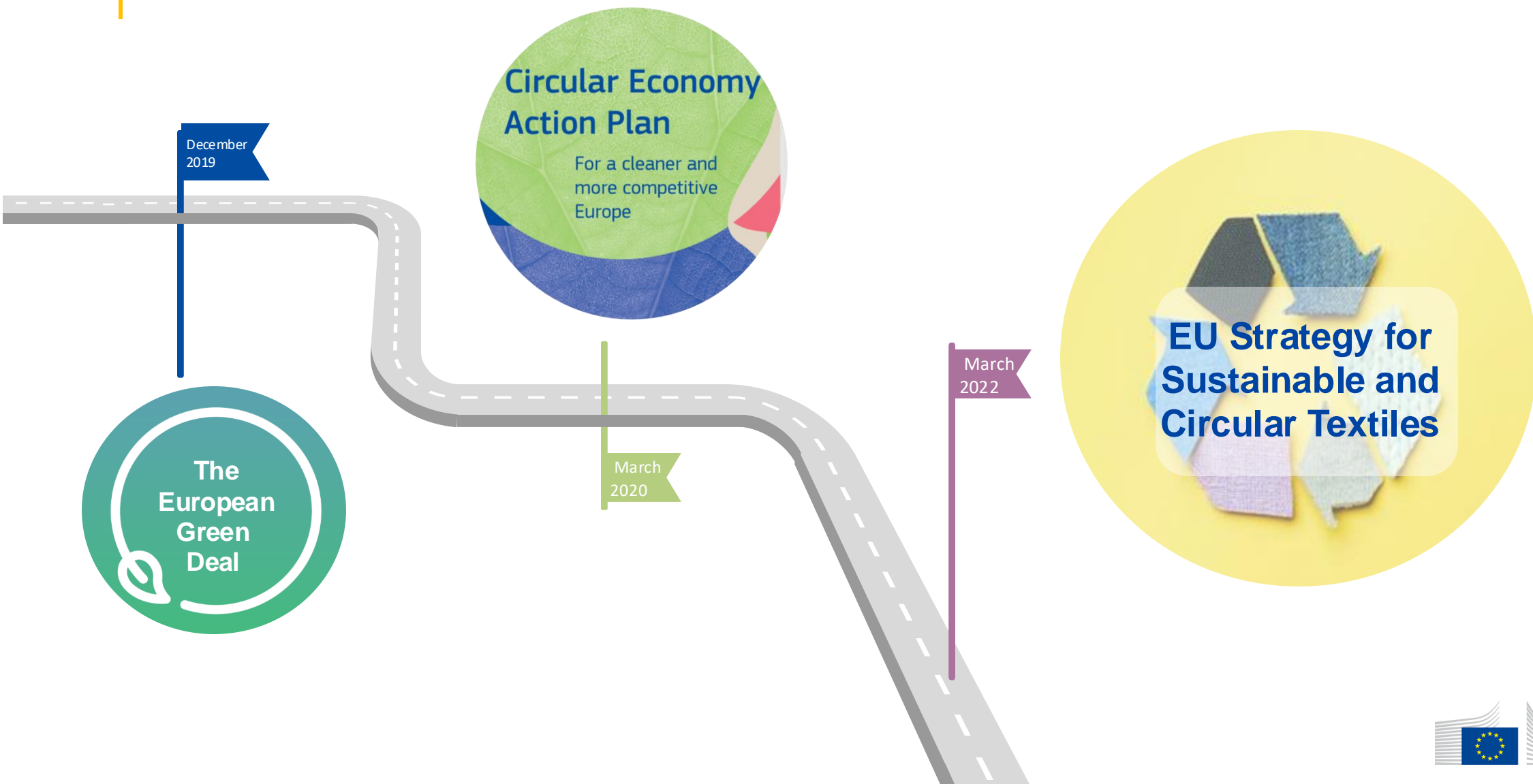
Clothing from many of the world's favorite brands lies in discarded heaps in Chile's Atacama Desert. How it got there tells the story of modern fast fashion.

RoadRunner Recycling
https://www.roadrunnerwm.com › blog › textile-waste-...

The Environmental Crisis Caused by Textile Waste

European Commission

Road to 2030 : Policy frameworks

December 2019

The European Green Deal

Circular Economy Action Plan

For a cleaner and more competitive Europe

March 2020

March 2022

EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles

European Commission

Road to 2030: the vision of the Strategy

By 2030, all textiles placed on the EU market should be:

- durable, repairable and recyclable
- to a great extent made of recycled fibers
- free of hazardous substances
- produced respecting social rights and the environment

"Fast fashion is out of fashion"

Profitable **re-use and repair services** are widely available

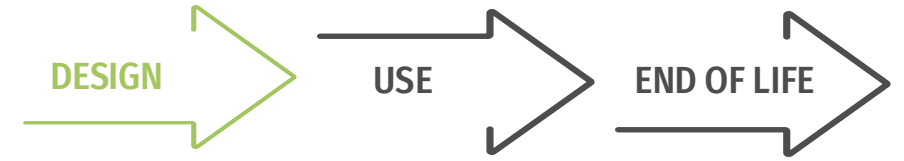**Producers take responsibility** for their products along the value chain

Circular rather than throw-away clothes **have become the norm,** with sufficient capacities for **recycling** and minimal incineration and landfilling

European Commission

New measures, new rules

Ecodesign requirements

Product information

Ban greenwashing

Rules for voluntary claims

Extended Producer Responsibility

Waste shipments

European Commission

New rules: design

DESIGN → USE → END OF LIFE

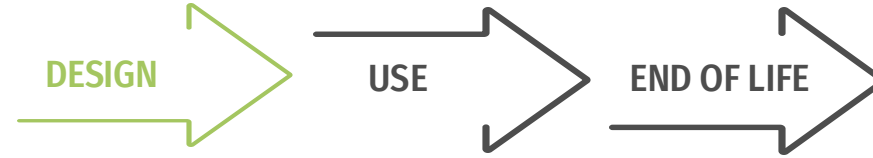Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation

Binding performance requirements:

- Durability, reusability, reparability

- Fibre-to-fibre recyclability and mandatory recycled fibre content

- Minimising and track the presence of substances of concern
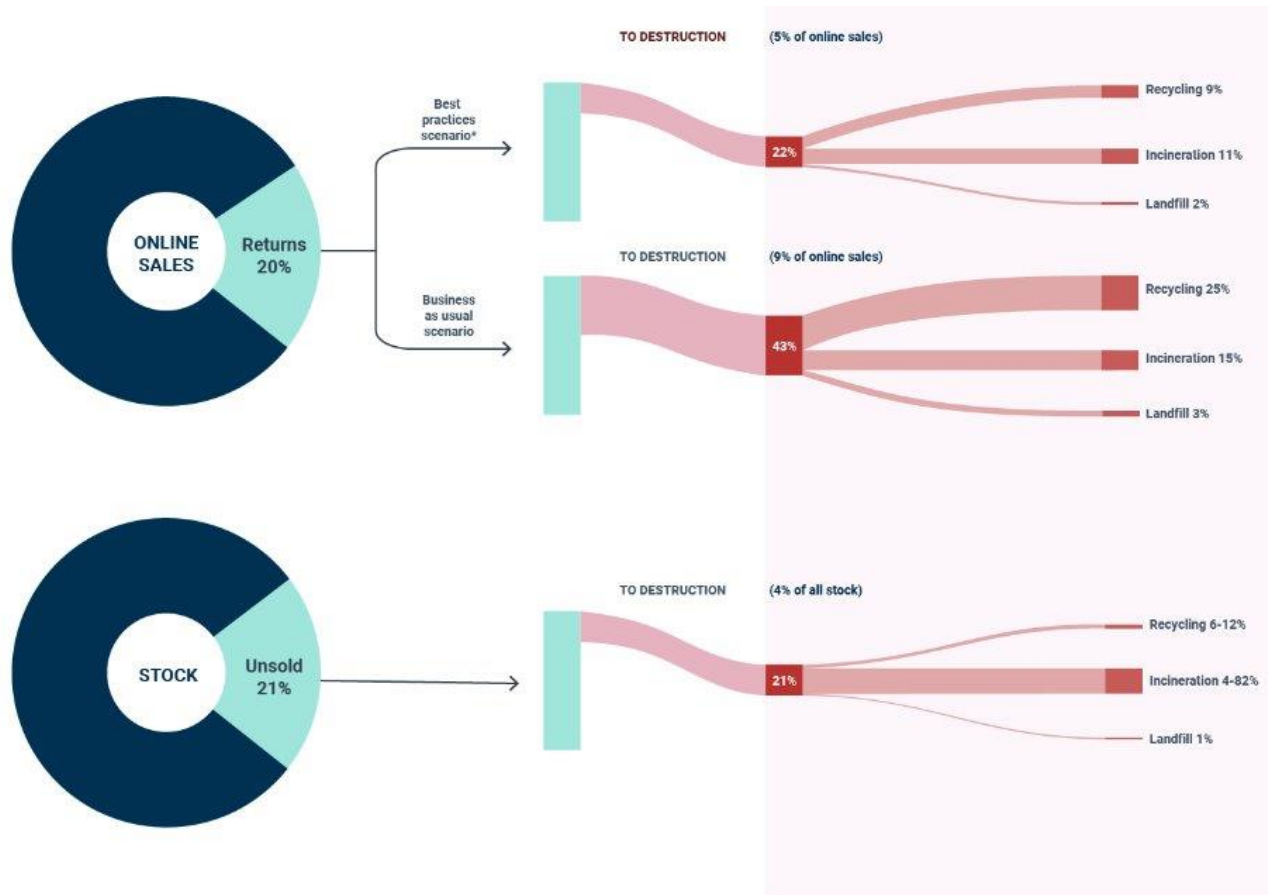
- Microplastics release

N.B. For all products on EU market (imported or not)

Commission brochure on main sources of unintentional release of microplastics in the environment, including textiles

European Commission

New rules: design

4-9% of clothing on the EU market are destroyed before use

ONLINE SALES — Returns 20%

TO DESTRUCTION (5% of online sales)
- Best practices scenario*
- 22%
  - Recycling 9%
  - Incineration 11%
  - Landfill 2%

TO DESTRUCTION (9% of online sales)
- Business as usual scenario
- 43%
  - Recycling 25%
  - Incineration 15%
  - Landfill 3%

STOCK — Unsold 21%

TO DESTRUCTION (4% of all stock)
- 21%
  - Recycling 6-12%
  - Incineration 4-82%
  - Landfill 1%

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation

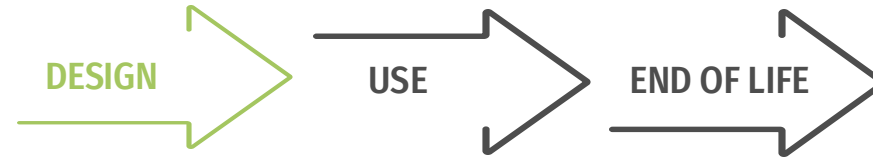**Prevention of destruction of unsold consumer goods**

Transparency requirements for those discarding unsold goods, and possibility to ban their destruction for relevant product groups.
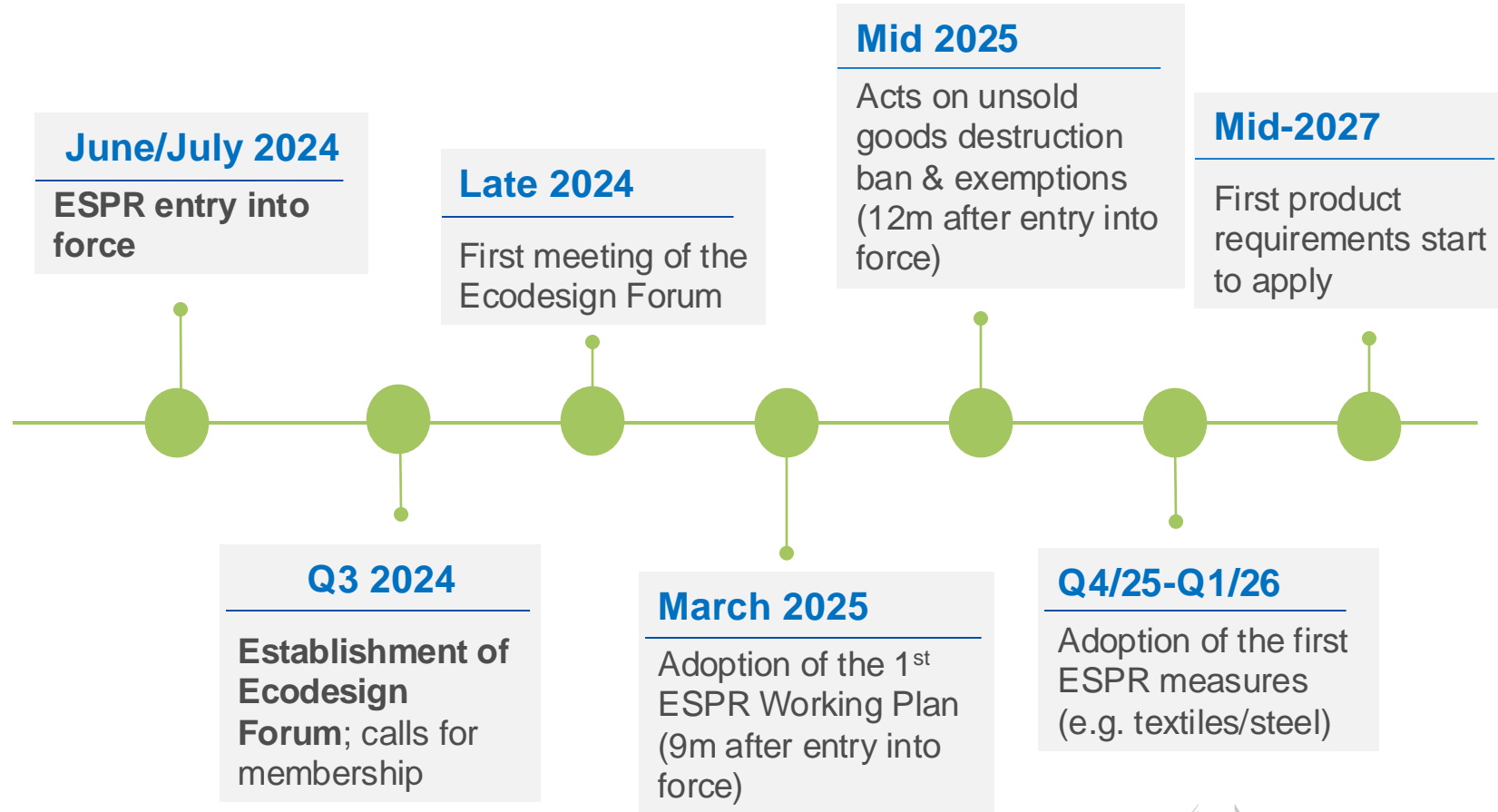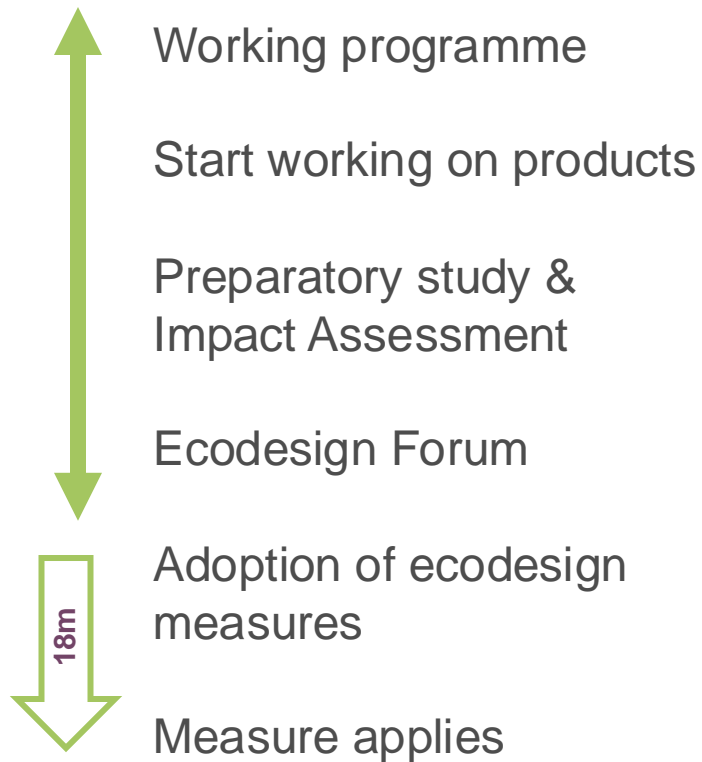
Ban on destruction of **apparel** and **footwear** after 2 years

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New rules: design

DESIGN → **USE** → **END OF LIFE** →

Process for adoption of new Ecodesign measures

- Working programme
- Start working on products
- Preparatory study & Impact Assessment
- Ecodesign Forum
- Adoption of ecodesign measures

18m

- Measure applies

June/July 2024

ESPR entry into force

Late 2024

First meeting of the Ecodesign Forum

Mid 2025

Acts on unsold goods destruction ban & exemptions (12m after entry into force)

Mid-2027

First product requirements start to apply

Q3 2024

Establishment of Ecodesign Forum; calls for membership

March 2025

Adoption of the 1st ESPR Working Plan (9m after entry into force)

Q4/25-Q1/26

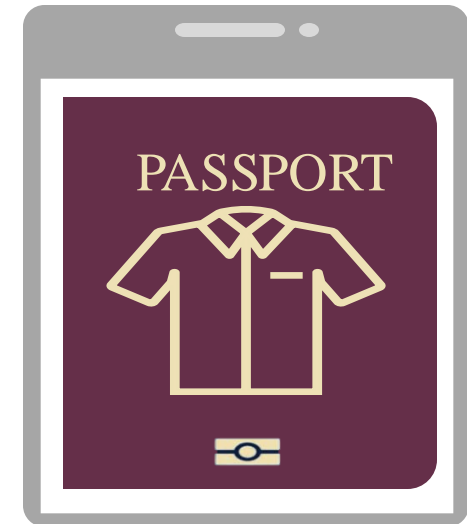Adoption of the first ESPR measures (e.g. textiles/steel)

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New rules: use

Empower consumers to make informed purchasing choices and encourage truly sustainable business practices and products

PASSPORT

- Information requirements + Digital Product Passport

  - Review of **EU Ecolabel** criteria for textiles – awarding excellence (from 2024)

EU Ecolabel
www.ecolabel.eu

- Revision of Textile Labelling Regulation

European Commission

New rules: use

DESIGN → USE → END OF LIFE

Empower consumers and **tackle greenwashing**

- Ban of generic environmental claims

- More visible guarantee information

- Ensuring voluntary environmental claims and labels are <u>substantiated</u>, <u>verified</u> and well <u>communicated</u>

- Introducing rules on public and private labelling schemes

Empowering Consumers in the Green Transition, in force since February 2024

Green Claims Directive, proposed March 2023

European Commission

New rules: end of life
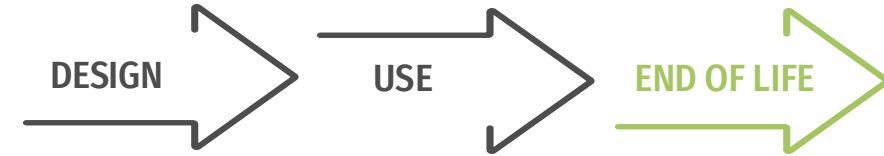
→ *Upcoming obligation to establish separate collection of textile waste by 2025*

WFD Targeted Revision

- Textile waste from households and similar waste is **prepared for reuse**

- Mandatory and EU-harmonised national **Extended Producer Responsibility** (EPR) schemes with eco-modulation of fees

- Promote research and development into innovative technologies for circularity

- Definition of textile waste VS re-usable textiles

Waste Shipment Regulation,

European Commission

Biobased materials: an alternative?

Policy framework for biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics – November 2022

- To **defossilise** industry, reducing our **dependency on fossil resources** & meeting our **climate neutrality targets**

- To **create jobs**

Challenges for textiles too!

- **Secondary** vs primary **biomass**

- Integrate the **cascading principle**

- **Sustainability criteria** to comply with:
  - RED III – for land use and biodiversity
  - For GHG – more research needed

European Commission

Thank you

European Commission