PRESS RELEASE

PETCORE EUROPE welcomes JRC proposals for EU-wide End-of-Waste criteria for textile recycling

Brussels, 10 November 2026. PETCORE EUROPE welcomes the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) technical proposals for EU-wide End-of-Waste (EoW) criteria for textile recycling, published on 27 October 2026, in line with our initial proposals. The proposed framework includes materials recovered through depolymerisation, subject to defined conditions for their quality, intended use and compliance. [1]

The report is an important step towards clearer, more consistent rules for recycled textile materials, including materials recovered through depolymerization as PETCORE EUROPE strongly advocated. [1]

Common criteria could give recyclers and their customers greater certainty about when recovered materials can be traded as products. The criteria should reflect the conditions of the Waste Framework Directive, including specific use, market demand, compliance with product rules and protection of health and the environment.

The JRC proposes that qualifying recovered monomers and oligomers could reach EoW before repolymerisation. This is a welcome recognition of chemical recycling routes, including polyester depolymerisation, subject to the proposed quality and compliance requirements. [1]

As the Commission considers the next steps, PETCORE will work with members and policymakers to help make the criteria clear, practical and suitable for industrial use.

Key areas for further discussion include:

- ✓ Clarifying how the criteria apply across different recycling routes and the handover between preparation, recycling and manufacturing.
- ✓ Setting workable quality and testing requirements for recovered polyester materials, including monomers and oligomers, making practical use of existing REACH compliance requirements and industrial quality control practices where possible.
- ✓ Ensuring proportionate traceability, sampling and verification requirements.
- ✓ Considering how prepared textile materials can reach facilities with the capacity and technology to recycle them, including through cross-border movements, while supporting the development of European recycling capacity and securing its feedstock supply, in compliance with applicable waste shipment rules and environmental safeguards.
- ✓ Ensuring consistency with EU textile producer responsibility (EPR) and future product requirements.
- ✓ The textile and clothing industry is highly globalised and closely linked to international markets. Collection, sorting and recycling do not always take place in the same country. As Europe develops producer responsibility systems for textiles, the rules should also recognise the practical need for collected materials to reach suitable recycling capacity. PETCORE will bring members' operational experience to this discussion.

PETCORE will build on existing studies and member experience, concentrating additional work on clearly identified gaps. Practical industrial evidence must inform both regulatory proposals and the business case for recycling.

About PETCORE EUROPE.

PETCORE EUROPE represents the PET value chain. Its Textile Special Industry Group brings stakeholders together to advance polyester textile circularity.

Further information: PETCORE EUROPE Textile Special Industry Group

Report Details.

[1] Egle, L., Pérez Arribas, Z., Saveyn, H. and Pierri, E. European Commission JRC, 27 October 2026. EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for recycling of textile and textile-related waste. JRC147954, especially pp. 10–19 and 104–108.