



6TH SUSTAINABILITY TALKS İSTANBUL



9 December 2025



Hilton Bosphorus

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY SHARED FUTURE !

BULLETIN 2025

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, SHARED FUTURE!

6. SUSTAINABILITY
TALKS İSTANBUL
9 Aralık 2025 Hilton Bosphorus



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SUSTAINABILITY TALKS İSTANBUL 2025

INDUSTRY LEADERS UNITE FOR “SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, SHARED FUTURE”

On **9 December 2025**, **Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus** hosted one of the most pivotal gatherings shaping the future of the global textile and fashion industry. Organised through the collaboration of **Orbit Consulting** and **Kipaş Textiles**, with **İTHİB** as Strategic Partner and **Aster Textile** as Corporate Partner, the **6TH Sustainability Talks Istanbul (STI)** opened its doors with a powerful vision that brought together **the legacy of the past and the responsibility of the future**.

Across the day, global brands, technology leaders and manufacturers aligned around a shared conclusion: **sustainability is no longer a “statement of intent,” but a commercially essential strategy for survival and growth.**

1.100+

PARTICIPANTS

400 Different Companies

70 Brands - 170 Manufacturers - 160 Other

36

BOOTHS

45

SPEAKERS

47

SPONSORS

20+

COUNTRIES

6

SUPPORTERS

2

COUNTRY PARTNERS



2025
VIDEO



A SHARED VISION AND CALL TO ACTION FROM THE HOSTS

At the opening of **Sustainability Talks Istanbul 2025**, the platform's founding and core stakeholders – **Orbit Consulting**, **Kipaş Textiles** and **Aster Textile** – shared the common vision behind STI and the rationale for this year's theme. In an era where global trade, supply chains, geopolitical balances and sustainability regulations are being reshaped simultaneously, speakers emphasised that **Türkiye's integrated production structure, agility and technical capabilities** position its textile industry as a **critical actor in the global value chain**.



In Cooperation with



Strategic Partner:



Corporate Partner:



Speaking on behalf of **Orbit Consulting**, it was highlighted that for six years Sustainability Talks Istanbul has been **more than an event**; it is a **continuous platform** that makes visible the transformation ambition, accumulated know-how and best practices of Türkiye's textile and fashion ecosystem. The year's theme, "**Shared Responsibility, Shared Future**", was framed as more than environmental responsibility – it was positioned as a call for economic **security, continuity of trade and global collaboration**.

In **Kipaş Textiles'** address, the emphasis was placed on STI's mission to create a common ground for **dialogue and learning**, enabling the industry to share what it has learned and to progress together. It was noted that this year's programme was curated with **greater focus and depth**, designed to generate **real value** for participants.

On behalf of **Aster Textile**, it was underlined that Türkiye is not merely cost-driven; it has a strong manufacturing ecosystem in **product development, engineering, innovation and qualified talent**. Sustainability Talks Istanbul was described as a platform that makes this potential visible and connects **Türkiye's true manufacturing strength** with international stakeholders.

The shared message across all three opening remarks was clear: **Sustainability Talks Istanbul is a long-term, multi-stakeholder platform that supports Türkiye's position as an active, reliable and indispensable partner in the global sustainability transformation agenda of textiles**.



OPENING KEYNOTE:

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, SHARED FUTURE — AND TÜRKİYE'S LEADERSHIP IN TRANSFORMATION

Following the vision set out by the hosts, **Ahmet Öksüz, Chairman of the Board of İTHİB**, opened the conference by describing **2025 as a turning point in which nature is no longer silent**, making it impossible to continue with old habits.

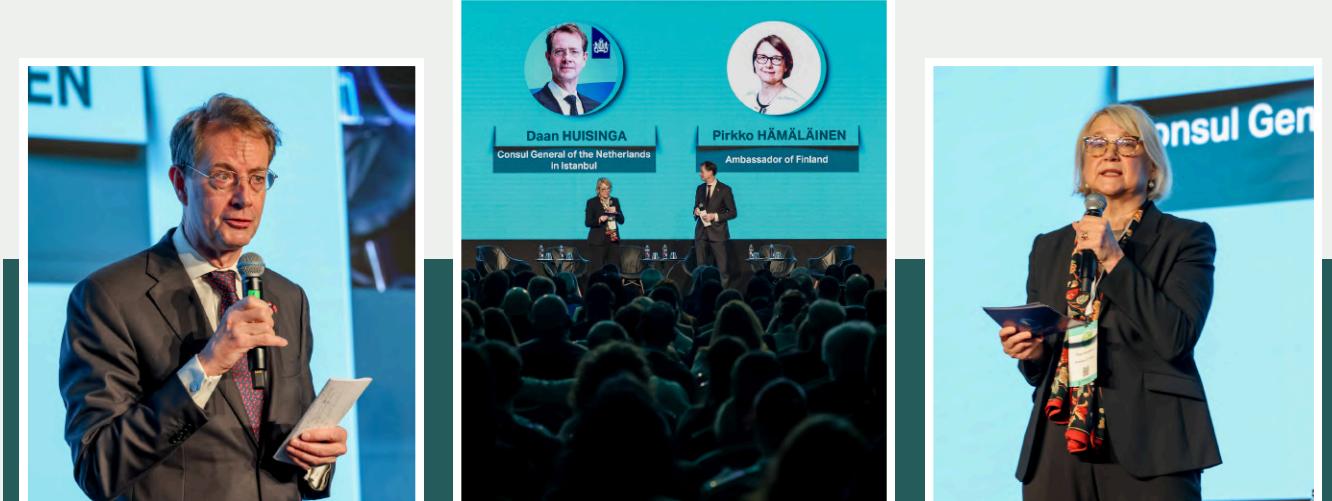
Öksüz noted that as **Europe's second-largest and the world's fifth-largest textile supplier**, Türkiye is now not only a producer, but an actor capable of **designing and steering transformation**. He added that **COP31, to be hosted in Türkiye in 2026**, will further reinforce this leadership role.

In a world where **85% of global textile waste ends up in landfill** and water resources are under increasing threat, Öksüz stressed that **growth is no longer enough – sustainable growth is a necessity**. In one of the most striking parts of his speech, he issued a call to brands for a **fair approach**: in sustainable production, minor, technically tolerable deviations such as small variations in colour tone or fabric weight should not automatically become grounds for returns or claims. He reminded participants that **re-production creates additional carbon emissions and resource use**, contradicting sustainability goals.

True sustainability, Öksüz concluded, will not be achieved by expecting sacrifice from a single link in the chain – it requires **fair sharing of risks, costs and responsibilities** across the value chain.

“-----
Sustainability is a chain – and its burden cannot be placed on a single link.
-----**”**
Ahmet Öksüz | İTHİB





A JOINT MESSAGE FROM FINLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS:

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION FOR GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION

After İTHİB Chairman Ahmet Öksüz's emphasis on global collaboration, the stage was handed to representatives of Türkiye's strategic partners Finland and the Netherlands.

The joint opening session delivered by Pirkko Hämäläinen, Ambassador of Finland to Türkiye, and Daan Huisenga, Consul General of the Netherlands in Istanbul, offered a compelling illustration of why sustainability requires cooperation that goes beyond national borders.

Speaking on behalf of Finland – the event's country partner for four consecutive years – Ambassador Hämäläinen described textile transformation as a systemic change that goes beyond production or waste management and encompasses the full lifecycle of materials. She highlighted Finland's pioneering action in implementing a nationwide textile collection system in 2023, two years ahead of EU requirements.

“Finland and Türkiye can jointly develop high value-added solutions for global markets.

Pirkko Hämäläinen | Finland

“Sustainability is not only a necessity for future generations, but also a major opportunity for business.

Daan Huisenga | The Netherlands

Consul General Huisenga shared how the Netherlands' post-war textile industry – once accounting for 10% of national GDP – has found new momentum through circularity and sustainability. He noted that for a densely populated delta country, sustainability is not merely a preference, but a vital necessity to avoid drowning in its own waste. At the same time, referencing the Dutch trading mindset, he stressed that acting for the environment can also be commercially rational and economically rewarding.

Both diplomats' common emphasis was Türkiye's strategic position in textiles. Praising Türkiye's "massive, dynamic and energetic" production capability, Huisenga argued that circularising a "textile superpower" like Türkiye could be a global game-changer. Using the metaphor of "growing the pie," they highlighted how pre-competitive collaboration and mechanisms such as the Customs Union can increase prosperity for both sides.



CEO PANEL:

LEADERS DRIVING TRANSFORMATION AND THE STRATEGIES OF THE FUTURE

Building on the vision presented by the diplomatic missions, industry leaders came together in the CEO Panel to discuss the strategies required to deliver transformation in practice.

Moderated by **Bikem Kanık, Board Member at Orbit Consulting**, the CEO Panel addressed one of the sector's most critical dilemmas: balancing **short-term financial targets** with **long-term sustainability vision**. **Kanık** emphasised that sustainability is not merely an activity; it is a core business strategy that must be embedded into all processes – starting with the CEO.

“ Unless sustainability is owned at CEO level, organisational transformation cannot become permanent. ”

Bikem Kanık | Orbit Consulting





Cüneyt Yavuz, CEO of Mavi, shared the company's transition, as it enters its 35th year, from a "Go-Go-Go" culture to a more controlled and sustainable growth model: **"3XL" – Be Strong, Grow, Sustain**. He underlined that sustainability is not a cost line but a key driver that increases brand value and quality, and supports the company's vision of growing in a way that is **profitable, sustainable and aligned with strategic targets**.

Cüneyt Yavuz | Mavi

Sustainability is not a communication topic for a brand; it is the foundation of long-term value creation.

Halit Gümüşer, Board Member at Kipaş Textiles, introduced the **Kipaş Pants** category, developed by turning crisis periods into innovation opportunities, and **fibR-e**, a technology that recycles textile waste at the molecular level. He noted that they view sustainability not merely as a regulatory obligation, but as a **commercial opportunity space**.

Halit Gümüşer | Kipaş Textiles

Tough times separate companies that see sustainability as an opportunity, not a cost.



Ali Koçalı, Co-Founder and CMIO of Aster Textile, emphasised that Türkiye's strength in global competition is no longer "price," but its capabilities in **speed, quality, innovation and flexible manufacturing**. He shared that they operate with a **"Green Factory"** vision and that sustainability sits at the centre of their market strategy.

Ali Koçalı | Aster Textile

For integrated manufacturers, sustainability is a transformation area that increases efficiency and competitiveness at the same time."

Javier Bernal, CEO of Ivy Decarb Marketplace, highlighted the importance of **data management and access to finance**, noting that measuring the environmental impact of machinery renewal and transformation investments is becoming critical for sector stakeholders.

“ Data and impact measurement are where sustainable transformation meets finance.

Javier Bernal | IvyDecarb Marketplace



Dirk Vantyghem, Director General of EURATEX, assessed the EU's shift from the "Green Deal" narrative to a competitiveness-focused **"Clean Industrial Deal,"** stressing the need to modernise the Customs Union to further integrate Türkiye and EU textile ecosystems.

“ Europe's sustainable textile goals are not achievable without a strong and integrated supply chain with Türkiye.

Dirk Vantyghem | EURATEX





“
For Lacoste, sustainability is not a constraint – it is a competitive advantage.
 Raynald Anquet | Lacoste
 ”

Following the CEOs' strategic perspectives, **Lacoste** brought the tangible impact of sustainability on branding and sourcing to the stage through the concept of "**Lasting Elegance**."

LACOSTE KEYNOTE: “LASTING ELEGANCE” AND THE COMMERCIAL POWER OF SUSTAINABILITY

Raynald Anquet, Vice President of Quality & CSR Operations at Lacoste, noted that sustainability may be perceived as a cost pressure for mass production and fast fashion; however, for premium brands like **Lacoste** it represents a unique **opportunity** to differentiate and increase desirability. He explained that **Lacoste**'s “Lasting Elegance” vision covers not only product aesthetics but also the ethical and environmental quality of production.

Anquet shared striking data illustrating **Lacoste**'s sourcing transformation. A brand that was not sourcing from Türkiye five years ago has now made Türkiye its **number one sourcing base**, surpassing China. He explained that this shift is rooted in near-market production decisions, reducing customs risks, and – most importantly – Türkiye's strong sustainability performance. In a period where climate impacts threaten cotton quality, **Anquet** highlighted Türkiye's advantage thanks to access to raw materials and integrated production capability.

Detailing the supplier evaluation system, **Anquet** stated that sustainability criteria now carry **greater weight than cost**. Lacoste follows the entire value chain – not only garment making, but also yarn, dyehouses and even cotton farms. Rather than transactional relationships, the brand is building **long-term partnerships**, elevating low-footprint and transparent producers into strategic partners.

Addressing EU regulations, **Anquet** described them as a positive guide that reduces greenwashing risk and levels the playing field. He noted Lacoste's preparation for the **Digital Product Passport (DPP)** and **Product Environmental Footprint (PEF)** methodologies, and delivered a clear message to Turkish producers: either resist investing and fight fast fashion price pressure – or invest and become an indispensable partner for premium brands.

Building on **Lacoste**'s emphasis on high standards in sourcing, the discussion moved onto a more technical foundation through **bluesign** and **SGS**, positioning sustainability as a competitive advantage.



BLUESIGN / SGS KEYNOTE:

SUSTAINABILITY IS NOW “COMPETITIVENESS”

Barbara Oswald, Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) at bluesign, stated in her keynote that sustainability today is not merely an environmental responsibility or a compliance obligation – it has become the core of **competitiveness** and a prerequisite for business survival and growth. Referring to the increasing complexity of regulation such as **CSRD** and **CSDDD**, Oswald argued that in this environment, surviving requires performance **beyond standard compliance**.

Presenting solution approaches developed under the **SGS and bluesign “Impact Now”** strategy, **Oswald** explained a three-pillar structure: **Traceability, Performance and Claims**. She underlined that reaching real data requires going deep into the supply chain – understanding not only garment manufacturers, but the entire value chain starting from chemical suppliers.

Oswald highlighted bluesign's 25 years of experience through its **Input Stream Management** model, emphasising the importance of solving problems at the source. Rather than testing only the final product, it is essential to ensure that the chemicals used at the beginning are produced in a “clean” and “responsible” way. In this system, factories are assessed across performance criteria ranging from wastewater management to occupational health and safety.

“
Today, sustainability is competitiveness.
Barbara Oswald | bluesign | SGS
”

Oswald also addressed the approaching **Digital Product Passport (DPP)** requirements and chemical management, reminding participants that by 2028 the disclosure of **Substances of Concern** is expected to become mandatory. She explained that the bluesign system uses chemical inventory lists and mass balance calculations to scientifically track whether harmful substances go into air, water or the product, and makes this data DPP-ready. She concluded: “Quality production, right-first-time dyeing, less water and energy use – that is real sustainability and real competitiveness.”

After sessions focused on standards and competitiveness, **Else Bornewa** shifted attention to the commercial realities of recycling and a new roadmap for Türkiye.



ELSE BORNEWA KEYNOTE:

THE COMMERCIAL REALITY OF SUSTAINABILITY AND A NEW ROADMAP FOR TÜRKİYE

Emir Koçak, Chief Sales and Strategy Officer at Else Bornewa, in his talk “A Business Roadmap for a Sustainable Textile Industry,” stated that recycling is the key to transformation – but scaling requires more than environmental intent. He emphasised that impact will remain limited unless recycled products become **profitable and sustainable business models**.

Koçak openly addressed technological limitations and field realities. He explained that mechanical recycling often results in shorter fibres, limiting products to lower-quality yarns. He also pointed to the labour costs of separating elements like buttons and zippers in post-consumer waste, noting that post-consumer recycling is on average **2.1 times more expensive** than pre-consumer recycling – challenging commercial feasibility.

Looking ahead, **Koçak** shared optimistic developments: next-generation spinning machines can increasingly process shorter recycled fibres into higher-quality **ring yarns**, which could shift market perceptions of recycled quality. He also highlighted automation improvements in sorting and cleaning, which may reduce labour-based costs and make post-consumer recycling scalable.

In his conclusion, **Koçak** offered a direct assessment: due to rising energy and labour costs, Türkiye can no longer compete on price for basic products such as “white t-shirts.” To remain indispensable, Türkiye should leverage its integrated production infrastructure to become a global solution partner in post-consumer recycling and design innovative, value-added products using recycled fibres.

“*Türkiye is one of the rare ecosystems able to test and scale sustainable innovation.*

Emir Koçak | Else Bornewa



Following the discussion on recycling's commercial challenges, the focus turned to transparency and data credibility in the Traceability Panel.

TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY PANEL: DATA-DRIVEN TRUST AND COLLABORATION

Moderated by **Sultan Tepe, Board Member at İTHİB**, the panel explored how sustainability moves beyond narrative and becomes a verifiable reality through data and technology. In her opening, **Tepe** stated that proof of sustainability is not in presentations, but in the product itself – and that traceability, transparency and effective use of data will be among the most decisive factors shaping the sector's future.

Sarah Vollmer, Senior Climate & Circularity Manager at ARMEDANGELS, shared the brand's commitment to "radical transparency" and its motto, "we have nothing to hide." **Vollmer** stressed that transparency means owning not only successes but also mistakes. She described how openly sharing a past wool sourcing mistake with customers strengthened trust. Noting that they will transition to the **Digital Product Passport (DPP)** in 2025, she emphasised that traceability is not only about compliance; it is a tool to communicate and create impact with stakeholders.

“-----
What truly proves sustainability is not narratives, but products – and the verifiable data behind them.
Sultan Tepe | İTHİB
”-----



“-----
Real transparency is not only showing what is right, but also openly owning mistakes.
Sarah Vollmer | ARMEDANGELS
”-----



“ Transparency enables trust, and trust makes sustainability possible.

Duygu Çabuk | Control Union

Duygu Çabuk, Corporate Development Director at Control Union, stated that the backbone of sustainability is visibility, and the foundation of trust is verification. She announced that Control Union has completed accreditation for organisational carbon footprint verification under **ISO 14064-1**. She noted that carbon verification will increasingly integrate with supply chain traceability, ensuring that data is not only declared but also independently proven – reducing greenwashing risk.

Rhian Owen, Lead Project Manager for Sustainability Services at Eurofins, emphasised the role of science in building data-driven trust. While AI and automation generate excitement, **Owen** noted they are not “magic wands”; they require robust, scientific, verified data foundations. She shared that they manage supply chain risks through smart testing solutions such as **ChemST** and technologies like **Origin ID**, reinforcing the crucial role of scientific methods in stakeholder trust.

“ The strongest driver of trust is science-based, verifiable data.

Rhian Owen | Eurofins

“ Traceability gains meaning when data is verified at source and flows reliably across the ecosystem.

Selda İneler | TextileGenesis

Selda İneler, Türkiye Regional Lead at TextileGenesis, highlighted the importance of **interoperability** in digital traceability. To prevent data silos, platforms, certification bodies and brand systems must be able to communicate. She explained how **Fibercoin** validates and carries data from fibre to retail, and stressed the need to harmonise standards and bring suppliers into the digital transformation.

Closing the panel, **Sultan Tepe** summarised that sustainability journeys begin with data, transform into trust through transparency, and ultimately evolve into organisational culture – and that the sector can only succeed through collaboration and shared responsibility.

Following the focus on data and traceability, **Finnish Textile & Fashion** drew attention to the role of consumer behaviour and economic incentives in circular economy.

FINNISH TEXTILE & FASHION KEYNOTE:

DATA AND CONSUMER INCENTIVES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR CIRCULARITY

“

Not individual projects, but systemic transformation creates lasting impact.

| Marja-Liisa PermiKangas | Finnish Textile & Fashion

”



Marja-Liisa PermiKangas, Managing Director of Finnish Textile & Fashion, marked the association's 120th anniversary by stating that the industry has moved beyond the question of "why" sustainability matters; the real challenges now are "how" to deliver it – and "who" will pay the bill. Sharing examples from Finland's carbon-neutral roadmap and innovation ecosystem, she emphasised that transformation must go beyond production and be supported by economic incentives that change consumer behaviour.

PermiKangas raised a central question: "Is the consumer ready – and willing to pay?" She reminded the audience that processing recycled fibres and home textile waste is costly, and that current market dynamics suggest consumers are not fully ready to absorb these costs. Sustainability therefore requires a multi-dimensional strategy. She also highlighted Finland's fast-growing innovations and models, from cellulose-based fibre technologies such as **Spinnova**, **Infinna** and **Kuura** to natural dyeing and rental services.

A key point was the link between circularity and data. Stating that "there is no circular economy without a data economy," **PermiKangas** shared a concrete case: a member company selling second-hand children's clothing reduced processing costs from **€7-8 to €1** by using AI and data – a clear example of how data can make circular business models profitable.

Addressing EU regulations and fair trade, **PermiKangas** stated that Europe should not become a "waste management organisation" for uncontrolled, non-compliant textile products arriving from outside the continent. She pointed to the enforcement challenges of cross-border e-commerce models and called for a fair market environment for rule-following companies such as Turkish producers.

Introducing the concept of a "social transition," she argued that awareness alone will not change consumer habits; financial incentives are essential. Using tax reductions that accelerated EV adoption in Finland as an example, she called for VAT reductions in circular services such as repair, rental and resale.

After discussions on economic models, **Covation Biomaterials** brought the material innovation dimension to the stage.



*The greatest test of sustainability
is scaling solutions.*
Steven Ackerman | Covation Biomaterials

COVATION BIOMATERIALS KEYNOTE:

SUSTAINABLE PERFORMANCE AND THE BIOMATERIALS REVOLUTION

Steven Ackerman, CEO of Covation Biomaterials – established by building on DuPont's biomaterials legacy – defined the company's vision as "creating high-performance, sustainable materials accessible to everyone." He explained that **Sorona**, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, is produced using corn-sugar-based **Bio-PDO**, delivering stretch (with or without spandex), shape retention and durability.

The most notable announcement was the launch of **100% bio-based Bio-PTMEG**, derived from corn cobs and designed to replace petrochemical PTMEG. **Ackerman** shared that the new facility is expected to come online next year.

Ackerman addressed three key challenges in scaling sustainable feedstocks and their strategies. First, to compete against the massive scale and cost advantage of established fossil-based products, they collaborate closely with value chain converters, focus on the right segments, and work to keep pricing accessible by preventing margin stacking.

On traceability – particularly challenging for an upstream raw material producer – **Ackerman** described the **Common Thread** certification programme with fabric mills and the **Truterra** programme that verifies regenerative agriculture at farm level. These provide brands with assurance that products genuinely contain **Sorona** and come from sustainable sources.

He also emphasised that sustainability is not a static target but a continuous improvement journey. While **Sorona** currently contains **37% bio-based content**, the ultimate goal is **100% bio-based**, despite technical and economic challenges. He closed with a call for collective action: sustainability should be a shared effort, not a competitive race.



After discussions on economic models, the process of converting textile waste into raw material – and the technological leaps enabling this – took centre stage in the Textile-to-Textile Recycling Panel.

TEXTILE-TO-TEXTILE RECYCLING PANEL: FROM VISION TO SCALABLE IMPLEMENTATION



Moderated by **Jasmin Malik Chua, Climate & Labour Editor at Sourcing Journal**, the panel explored waste management and circularity – among the global textile industry's biggest challenges. **Chua** reminded the audience that **92 million tonnes of textile waste** are generated each year, and only **1%** is converted into new garments. She invited the panel to discuss how the industry can move beyond vision and scale textile-to-textile recycling.

To deliver circularity, we must move beyond vision and talk about scalable implementation.

Jasmin Malik Chua | Sourcing Journal

Pierre Börjesson, Global Commercial Director at Circulose, stated that their technology converting cotton waste into a viscose-like raw material is no longer a pilot – it is a commercial reality with **60,000 tonnes** capacity. To overcome price barriers to scaling, he highlighted their licensed business model: through pre-agreements with brands, a fixed base price is set for the raw material, eliminating price uncertainty and enabling sustainable materials to be included in purchasing budgets.



Scaling circularity requires not intent, but volume and commercial commitment.

Pierre Börjesson | Circulose



Özgür Atsan, Chief Commercial Officer at RE&UP Recycling Technologies, noted their focus on one of the most challenging waste streams: **poly-cotton blends**. He explained that through a hybrid approach combining mechanical and chemical processes, they can remove dyes in post-consumer waste and separate fibres. They recover cotton as pure cotton fibre and polyester as polyester chips – underlining the critical role of sorting and separation technologies.



The biggest challenge is not waste – it's building the ecosystem to manage it.

Özgür Atsan | RE&UP

“ *Circularity is no longer a pilot – it is an integrated and commercial production model.*

Kıymet Kübra Kaya Denge | Kipaş fibR-e **”**

Kaya Denge emphasised fibR-e's key advantage: regardless of whether waste is pre- or post-consumer, the system can accept any textile product with **at least 70% polyester content**, including items with buttons and zippers – transforming recycling from a side activity into an integrated production model.

Fuat Şahin, Board Member at Meltem Kimya, and Kıymet Kübra Kaya Denge, R&D Center Manager at Kipaş, introduced **fibR-e**, a technology developed through strategic collaboration. **Şahin** explained how they brought PET bottle recycling experience into textiles, creating an “infinite loop” by recycling waste at molecular level without quality loss.

“ *Sustainability requires that what is sold returns to textiles again.*

Fuat Şahin | Meltem Kimya **”**

“ *Regulation should accelerate transformation – through practicality, not complexity.*

Diederik Janssen | UNIFI **”**

Diederik Janssen, Brand Sales Director EMEA Region at UNIFI, argued for the simplicity and scalability of thermomechanical processes based on two decades of recycling experience. He stated that regulation can be a catalyst accelerating the sector, but warned that excessive regulation could add complexity and distract from practical outcomes.

The shared conclusion: achieving a true circular economy requires replacing competition with collaboration – and brands must support the process not only through declarations, but also through **concrete purchasing commitments**.

After the technical depth of recycling, the stage shifted to the vision of a global brand that turns sustainability into an object of performance and desirability.



ON RUNNING KEYNOTE:



“DESIRABLE” SUSTAINABILITY AND A PREMIUM PERFORMANCE VISION

Danielle Petesic, Senior Director of Apparel & Accessories Product Development and Sourcing at On Running, described the brand's journey from a footwear company to a global premium sportswear brand, offering a perspective where sustainability is integrated not only through metrics and carbon targets, but also through **product quality and consumer desire**. She stated that the brand's five-year plan is built on three pillars: **Innovation, Quality and Sustainability**, aligned with its mission of “Igniting the human spirit through movement.”

One of the most distinctive parts of her talk was the relationship between **speed** and sustainability. **Petesic** argued that sluggish calendars do not serve sustainability, and that speed does not have to equal fast fashion: if inefficient processes and poor pattern quality drive a **40% return rate**, recycled polyester offers little benefit. True sustainability, she said, lies in products designed to **last**, not to be replaced.

Petesic shared **On Running's** social and environmental goals, including implementing **Living Wage** practices across the supply chain and eliminating coal use among Tier 1 suppliers by **2027**. She also highlighted achievements such as the low-carbon Cloud product line and making over 300 styles traceable down to **Tier 5**.

She also stressed that sustainability cannot be separated from aesthetics: circular design is valuable, but who will buy the product? Consumers want to look and feel good – On's role is to deliver both.

Closing, **Petesic** stated that **Türkiye** is a strategic focus for On Running and that they seek long-term partnerships with suppliers that go beyond transactions to include innovation and material development. She framed sustainability as collaboration: “It's not a race – it's a team sport.”

“ When designed correctly, speed is not the enemy of sustainability. ”
 Danielle Petesic | ON Running



What did we do and learn on our road towards a circular textile economy by 2050?

Niels VEENIS
Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Circularity is not just recycling – it is rethinking the entire system.

— Niels Veenis | Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

After the brand perspective, the stage moved to policies and cross-country collaboration – led by the Netherlands Consulate.

NETHERLANDS CONSULATE KEYNOTE:

THE DUTCH EXPERIENCE IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY: A STRATEGIC COOPERATION PERSPECTIVE WITH TÜRKİYE

Niels Veenis, Minister Counselor for Economic and Commercial Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Istanbul, presented “Circular Textiles in the Netherlands and Lessons Learned,” sharing the role of policymakers in sector transformation. He noted that circularity rates remain only **0.3%**, and less than **1%** of garments are recycled fibre-to-fibre. He outlined the Netherlands’ goal of achieving a fully circular textile economy by **2050** and the key lessons learned.

Veenis described four core lessons. First, circularity is not only recycling; it requires changing the entire system from material choices to overconsumption. Second, change starts with consumer behaviour – repair, rental and sharing must become **easy, logical and fair** for consumers. Third, transformation cannot be achieved alone; he pointed to the **Denim Deal** as a successful public-private collaboration model.

In the most strategic part of his talk, **Veenis** addressed EU regulations and waste exports with candid criticism. Recognising Türkiye’s strong recycling and processing capacity, he questioned the EU’s restrictions on exporting waste textiles to Türkiye: if the EU truly sees Türkiye as a partner and wants to solve circularity through near-shoring, ignoring this capacity “at Europe’s doorstep” is not rational. He argued the issue must be addressed boldly.

Veenis also introduced a guide prepared by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (**RVO**) featuring over 100 circular Dutch companies, and noted that in the coming year the Netherlands and Türkiye will focus particularly on **chemical recycling** and the **Digital Product Passport**.



After policymakers' vision, the technical, financial and systemic challenges of moving to a low-carbon economy were explored in depth.

LOW-CARBON TRANSITION PANEL IN FASHION & TEXTILES: SYSTEMIC CHANGE AND FAIR SHARING

Moderated by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hakan Karaosman** from **Politecnico di Milano**, the panel positioned decarbonisation not only as a technical process, but as a systemic transformation grounded in economic and social justice. **Karaosman** noted that although "economy" and "ecology" share the same root ("oikos," meaning home), they are often framed as opposites today – and argued that the sector must evolve from cost-focused structures toward **supply ecosystems** integrating social and environmental justice.

Caterina Tonda, Sustainable Development Manager at Kering, stated that sustainability is not a departmental task but a board-level strategy. She described how **Kering** creates pre-competitive collaboration across its brands to scale innovations and follow a shared decarbonisation roadmap from farming to finished products.



“ - - - - - **Sustainability is not only about organisational efficiency; it requires systemic and collective transformation.**

Hakan Karaosman | Politecnico di Milano

“ - - - - - **Decarbonisation is not imposed from the top – it is a journey built together.**

Caterina Tonda | Kering





Dr. Suraj Bahirwani, Senior President and Global Sales Head at **Birla Cellulose**, argued that sustainability is no longer a competitive advantage but a prerequisite to "sit at the table." Sharing their 2040 Net Zero targets, he identified cost-sharing as the biggest barrier: brands push sustainability boundaries, but no one wants to pay more. If we say "shared responsibility," he argued, we must also discuss **"shared cost."**

If sustainability is a shared goal, the cost must be shared as well.

Dr. Suraj Bahirwani | Birla Cellulose



Decarbonisation and profitability do not contradict each other; with the right strategy, they reinforce one another.

Güray Budak | Korteks

Güray Budak, Deputy General Manager at **Korteks**, framed decarbonisation not as a cost but as a strategic investment that increases operational resilience. Under "Smart Life 2030," he shared that geothermal energy has reduced electricity-related emissions by **83%**, alongside innovations such as dope-dyed technology and biodegradable polyester.

Michel Waegli, CEO of Livinguard, and Anish Paliwal, Global Marketing Director at Archroma, discussed the role of chemistry and process innovation. **Waegli** argued that because sustainable solutions are often more expensive, targeted regulations that level the playing field are a critical enabler. **Paliwal** stressed the need to simplify complex chemistry processes and noted that "super systems" delivering water and energy savings can reach full potential only through transparent collaboration between brands and manufacturers.

In closing, **Karaosman** highlighted power imbalances in the supply chain and suggested the sector is entering a new era where knowledge increasingly shifts power toward suppliers – and sustainability has become not a "purchase criterion" but an existential matter.

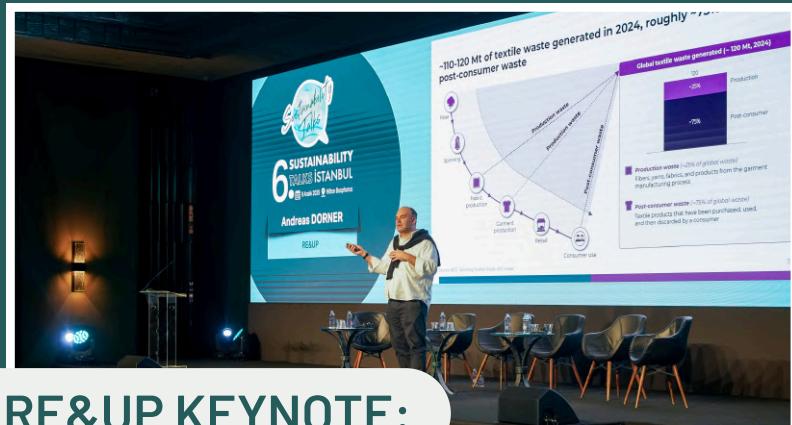
Sustainable innovation can only scale when it is balanced with cost.

Michel Waegli | Livinguard

Without information sharing and collaboration, decarbonization remains stuck in isolated incidents; it cannot achieve a systemic and scalable transformation

Anish Paliwal | Archroma

Following the low-carbon panel's emphasis on shared cost and scaling, **RE&UP** presented an assertive response through its technology and business model.



RE&UP KEYNOTE:

“BOTTLES SHOULD STAY BOTTLES” – TEXTILES MUST RETURN TO TEXTILES

Andreas Dorner, General Manager of RE&UP, with an interactive exercise and delivered clear, memorable messages about the future of textile recycling. Acknowledging the sector's challenges, he described this moment as “the best time and the best region,” as textiles are now at the centre of global attention like never before.

Focusing on **post-consumer waste**, **Dorner** noted that today's recycled polyester market is largely built on PET bottles. However, EU regulations and industrial logic are increasingly aligned around one principle: **“Bottles should stay bottles.”** The textile industry must therefore close its own loop by scaling **textile-to-textile recycling**. He also argued that waste management should be solved regionally – not via intercontinental transportation – based on principles such as “Europe's waste should be managed in Europe; Türkiye's waste in Türkiye.”

Dorner explained that RE&UP offers a bold solution to one of brands' biggest barriers: cost. They provide recycled cotton fibre in a **cost-neutral** structure – without increasing price – emphasising that today's paradigm is both economic and environmental sustainability. Sustainability must stop being an expensive option.

He warned that the next major crisis will be **access to raw materials**: to meet scaling targets, the world will need four times more raw material than currently available. He also highlighted transparency problems in the waste trade – you cannot assume a container ordered as “70% cotton, 30% polyester” will actually contain that. The waste supply chain is not as transparent as the textile supply chain, and meeting standards like GRS will require a major transparency revolution.

Dorner shared RE&UP's growth ambitions: **80,000 tonnes** capacity across two sites in Türkiye today, Spain coming online by end of 2025, and a target of **200,000 tonnes** to become a global player.

“
 Bottles should stay bottles –
 textiles must return to textiles.
 ”
 Andreas Dorner | RE&UP

After the recycling scaling vision, global textile consultancy leader **Gherzi** presented an existential strategy for Europe and **Türkiye** through the concept of **Creative Destruction**.



GHERZI KEYNOTE:

"CREATIVE DESTRUCTION" AND THE "GREATER EUROPE" VISION AGAINST CHINA COMPETITION

Giuseppe Gherzi, Managing Partner at Gherzi Textil Organisation, opened his talk by challenging the notion that AI alone will save the industry — using an AI-generated factory image disconnected from technical reality as a “realistic” caveat. What the sector needs, he argued, is not artificial imagery but the courage to dismantle old structures and build new ones, aligned with the “Creative Destruction” concept referenced by the **2025 Nobel Prize in Economics** winners.

In his 2035 projections, Gherzi suggested technical textiles and composites will grow at **3-5%**, while growth in apparel production will slow to around 1% annually. He attributed the slowdown to saturated Western markets, the rapidly expanding second-hand market, and above all, ultra-fast fashion. He described China’s ultra-fast fashion system as an impenetrable “silo,” closed to the outside world from machinery to fibre.

His strongest warning concerned global competition and recycling capacity. Sharing an anecdote from a meeting with a Chinese delegation, he stated that China recycles **2 million tonnes** of textiles annually and India **1 million tonnes**, while Europe remains close to “zero point.” “If we don’t move forward together as Greater Europe, China will wipe us out,” he warned, pointing to an existential risk for Europe and its neighbouring production hubs.

His proposed solution was a “**Greater Europe**” ecosystem: production centres such as **Türkiye, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco** should act in fully integrated alignment with the EU. As China preserves market share through indirect exports via Vietnam and Pakistan, **Türkiye** is indispensable for Europe. Gherzi stressed the need for joint lobbying in Brussels under EURATEX leadership and modernising mechanisms such as the Customs Union.

On innovation, he highlighted disruptive machinery developments — Rieter’s 2027 automation vision, Saurer’s new technologies, and systems that can process short and recycled fibres at high speed by reducing vibration — potentially changing the rules of the game.

“Instead of trying to preserve the current structure, we must consciously rebuild it.”

Giuseppe Gherzi | Gherzi Textil Organisation



Following the global competition threat and “Greater Europe” vision, representatives from government, finance and the private sector came together in the final panel to discuss **how transformation can be financed and regulated**.

PUBLIC SECTOR, PRIVATE SECTOR AND FINANCE PANEL: COLLECTIVE STRENGTH TO OVERCOME BARRIERS

Moderated by **Ece Sevin, Partner and the Sustainability Services Leader** at **EY Türkiye** and Sustainability Services Leader, the panel brought together the pillars of transformation: the public sector, the real economy, finance and international initiatives. Sevin stated that no single organisation or sector can overcome the climate and social crises alone, framing the panel’s core theme as **resilience and collaboration**.

Elif Berrak Taşyürek, Head of the EU Single Market and Green Deal Department at the General Directorate of International Agreements and the EU, Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Trade, emphasised the vital importance of the Customs Union relationship with the EU and the Green Deal process for the sector. She reminded the audience that **50% of textile and apparel exports** go to the EU and shared that the Ministry is preparing the sector for new rules such as the Digital Product Passport and eco-design under the **Green Deal Action Plan**. She also announced that under the **Responsible** programme, the Ministry provides consultancy and project support over five years to help companies deliver green transition projects.



“ -----
The green transition is not a process for a single actor – it requires the entire value chain to move together.

Ece Sevin | EY Türkiye

“ -----
The green transition is a compliance and transformation process shaped jointly by the public and private sectors.

Elif Berrak Taşyürek | Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Trade





Burak Orhan Arifioğlu, Board Member at Karacasu Textile, spoke as “the realist of the day,” acknowledging market contraction in recent years and increasing uncertainty in payback periods for sustainability investments. Nevertheless, he argued investments must not stop: “The wind will stop one day – and when it does, the companies with their sails up and ready will win,” highlighting how crisis-era investments shape future competitiveness.



“Sustainability may look like a cost in the short term, but it is the condition for staying in business in the long term.

Burak Orhan Arifioğlu | Karacasu Textile

“Finance can be an accelerator that removes barriers to transformation.

Irem Barzilay | Garanti BBVA

Irem Barzilay, Sustainability Director at Garanti BBVA, underlined the finance sector’s bridging role. She shared the bank’s sustainable finance target of **TRY 3.5 trillion** for 2018–2029 and explained how they reach suppliers through vertical agreements with anchor brands. She also described how their collaboration with the Ivy Decarb platform offers end-to-end solutions from technical reporting to financing, especially for energy efficiency and machinery renewal investments.

Christina Iskov, Impact Programmes Director at Global Fashion Agenda, made an important announcement: they have launched the **Circular Fashion Partnership** programme in Türkiye. Previously implemented in countries such as Bangladesh and Vietnam, the model brings together brands, manufacturers and recyclers to recycle industrial textile waste. Iskov invited Turkish stakeholders to join this local partnership.

Closing the panel, speakers agreed that collaboration must replace competition. **Ece Sevin** summarised that progress requires both the regulatory “stick” and the incentive “carrot,” but above all, transparent dialogue across all links of the value chain.

“Real transformation becomes possible where local implementation meets global collaboration.

Christina Iskov | Global Fashion Agenda



“
The destiny of circularity is decided at the design table.
Calvin Woolley | IKEA
“

“
Circularity is the success of an ecosystem working together, not of a single actor.
Romain Narcy | Rematters
“

Just before the conference closed, **IKEA**, the world's largest furniture and home textiles retailer, shared its circular design and production vision in a candid fireside chat.

CLOSING FIRESIDE CHAT: IKEA'S VISION FOR CIRCULAR DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

In a conversation between **Romain Narcy, Co-Founder of Rematters**, and **Calvin Woolley, Sustainable Business Manager** at **IKEA**, the session explored IKEA's journey from linear to circular economy, initiated in 2017. **Woolley** explained that IKEA's circularity is built on three pillars: **design, decoupling from fossil-based resources**, and **service models**.

Woolley highlighted that **80% of a product's climate impact is determined at the design stage**, and outlined **IKEA's Circular Design Principles**: extending product life through washable covers, designing furniture such as PAX wardrobes to be assembled and disassembled at least 10 times, and increasing use of recycled materials. He cited Türkiye-made duvet sets containing 50% recycled cotton as an example, and shared that since 2019 **IKEA** has reached **97% recycled sources** for polyester, while continuing to push boundaries in cotton.

To make transformation measurable, **IKEA** has developed a "circularity scoring system" for products, aiming for at least **50% of the product range** to reach **100% alignment** by 2030. On the supplier side, Woolley noted significant progress in phasing out coal: of 44 suppliers that previously used coal, only **two** remain, and **IKEA** has reduced its water footprint by **45%**. He reminded the audience that energy efficiency is not a cost, but an investment that can save companies millions.

One of the most striking points was the challenge created by misaligned global regulations. **Woolley** shared that a product made in Türkiye using recycled content cannot be exported to China due to China's waste import laws, highlighting the need for regulatory harmonisation. He closed by stating sustainability should not be a competitive tool between brands, but a responsibility to leave a liveable world for our grandchildren.



INTERACTION AREA TALKS:

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AND THE DECARBONIZATION ROADMAP

Aksa Acrylic Marketing Manager Enida Hançer stated that, with their leading position in the global market, they address sustainability not only through raw materials but also through the **lifespan and durability** (UV, tear resistance) of the product. She emphasized that 85% of emissions originate from energy and raw materials, but costs and access to resources create obstacles in the transformation. Despite these challenges, **Aksa** saves **84,000 MW of energy** and **302,400 tons** of water annually through efficiency projects, preventing **36,319 tons of CO2** emissions. **Hançer** also stated that they meet 85% of their water needs from the sea and announced that they have begun preparations for their **2026 roadmap** with the goal of a circular ecosystem.

“

Aksa Acrylic transforms sustainability into tangible results across the entire value chain through a holistic approach spanning from raw materials to product lifespan, measurable decarbonization actions, and a strong focus on circular design.

Enida Hançer | Aksa Acrylic

”

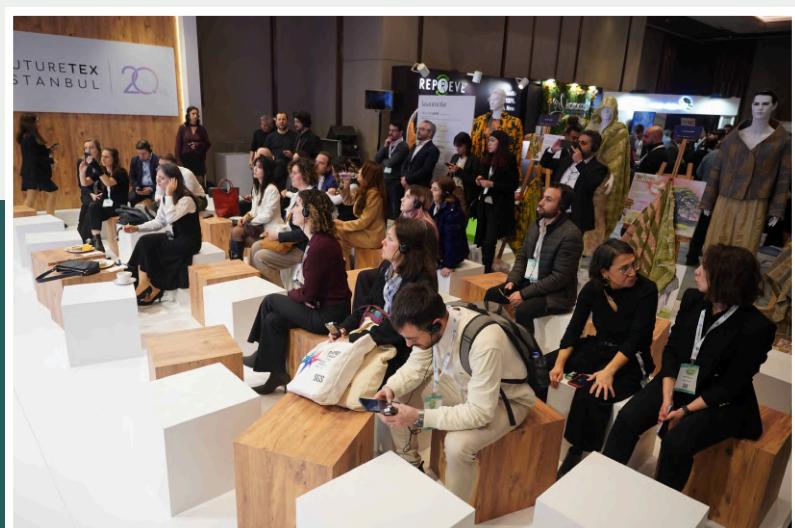
OVERCOMING THE "VALLEY OF DEATH" AND ACHIEVING SCALABILITY IN TEXTILE RECYCLING

Valmet Development Manager Heli Kangas announced that the company aims to become "**a partner in the new era of textiles**" by transferring its long-standing experience in the paper industry to textile fiber production. To overcome the "**Death Valley**" risk, the biggest obstacle to commercializing innovations, they offer customers the opportunity to test and scale up without investment at their centers in Finland and Sweden. **Valmet**, which has proven its success in the field with references such as **Spinnova** and **Renewcell**, is adapting its fiber processing technologies to textile recycling. Managing its processes with an integrated approach of "Technology, Automation, and Services," the company continues to support the sector with its R&D efforts. **Kangas** concluded his presentation by inviting all manufacturers to participate in environmentally focused collaborations.

“

Valmet paves the way for a circular and scalable textile ecosystem by overcoming the "Valley of Death" in textile recycling, translating laboratory innovations into commercial-scale solutions through proven technologies and strategic collaborations.

Heli Kangas | Valmet



A NEW ERA OF SUSTAINABILITY IN ACRYLICS AND THE REGEL™ INNOVATION

TAF Senior Vice President Tuhin Kulshreshtha stated that acrylic's natural advantages, combined with circular solutions, offer an indispensable opportunity to meet the growing demand for textiles. The **Regel™** technology, highlighted in the presentation, significantly reduces the carbon footprint by offering chemically recycled, GRS-certified, and traceable fibers. In addition to this technology, which reaches 75% recycled content by 2023, it was emphasized that water and energy consumption is minimized through the **Radianza™** (Gel-Dyeing) method. Drawing attention to the strategic partnership with Turkey, **Kulshreshtha** stated that Regel™ will provide Turkish manufacturers with a competitive advantage in achieving the country's EU Green Deal and Net Zero targets by 2053. **TAF** aims to work with the Turkish textile sector not only as a supplier but also as a long-term "**innovation partner**".

“

TAF is enabling a new era of circular, low-impact sustainability in textiles by moving beyond the perception of fossil-fuel dependency through recycled and traceable acrylic fiber technologies, combined with solutions that deliver high water and energy efficiency.

”

Tuhin Kulshreshtha | Thai Acrylic Fibre Co. Ltd.





CLOSING SESSION:

“SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, SHARED FUTURE” – AND THE SECTOR’S VISION FOR 2026

Closing Sustainability Talks Istanbul 2025, host Ceylan Saner reminded the audience of the day's overarching theme: Shared Responsibility, Shared Future. She underlined that this is not merely a slogan, but a shared roadmap for the sector – and that as Türkiye moves toward hosting COP31, the role of countries, industries and brands will be more critical than ever.

As the hosts and strategic partners delivered their final remarks, **Sultan Tepe, Board Member at İTHİB**, shared her satisfaction at seeing this journey, which began in Türkiye, evolve into a global textile movement, reiterating the vision of “**clean clothes in a clean world.**” Speaking for **Orbit Consulting**, **Emir Öztürk** emphasised the importance of continuity in taking steps toward a sustainable future.



Representing the Corporate Partner, **Ali Koçalı, Co-Founder and CMIO of Aster Textile**, expressed satisfaction with the collaboration and delivered a clear call for 2026: they expect to see more brands participating as attendees, and stated that efforts to convince and engage brands will continue.

Halit Gümüşer, Board Member at Kipaş Textiles, reminded the audience that the event is the result of a year-long effort, and that Aster Textile's participation elevated the platform further. Describing the conference as “a Türkiye brand that affects all of us,” he asked for participant feedback and concluded with a unifying message: **“There is nothing we cannot do together.”**



Ahmet Öksüz - İTHİB

Sustainability Talks, which we organized for the 6th edition this year with the strategic partnership of our Association, once again attracted great interest from stakeholders across the textile sector. We came together with leading international brands from all around the world.

Together with all our stakeholders shaping the future of the textile and fashion industries, we will continue to generate knowledge and solutions, and to inspire action for a more sustainable world.

Bikem Kanık - Orbit Consulting

This year, we saw once again that sustainability is not the responsibility of a single discipline, but of all stakeholders working together.

We are proud of where Sustainability Talks Istanbul has come in its 6th year of growth.

Hope to meet again next year!



Halit Gümüşer - Kipaş Textiles

We successfully held our 6th Sustainability Talks Istanbul event with over 1100 participants! The speakers and content were incredibly engaging. A huge thank you to all our sponsors, our organization partner The Orbit Consulting, our strategic partner İstanbul Tekstil ve Hammadde D勒leri İhracatçuları Birliği (İTHİB), and our corporate partner Aster Textile for their major contributions. We are also deeply grateful to our amazing participants for their keen interest and for patiently following the full-day program.



Ali Koçali - Aster Textile

On 9 December, we were proud to take part as a corporate partner in the 6th edition of Sustainability Talks Istanbul.

At Aster, our main reason for being part of this platform is very clear: we see sustainability not as a trend or a communication topic, but as an integral part of how we do business.



The Netherlands

The Netherlands was a Country Partner at Sustainability Talks Istanbul 2025, an event that drew over 1,200 visitors and that included 8 leading Dutch innovators showcasing their products and knowledge.

Dutch expertise and Türkiye's growing leadership in circular textiles continue to shape a more innovative and responsible industry.

Finland

Sustainability Talks Istanbul 2025 brought the textile value chain's sustainability solutions under one roof.





Dirk Vantyghem - EURATEX

Despite some ongoing trade irritations, relations with the Turkish textile and apparel industry are essential for the wider European textile ecosystem.

Thanks to Sustainability Talks Istanbul and İstanbul Tekstil ve Hammaddeleri İhracatçıları Birliği (İTHİB) for a great event.

Gherzi

On 9 December, Mr. Gherzi took part in the 6th edition of Sustainability Talks Istanbul, contributing to an engaging exchange on how the textile and fashion industries can move from sustainability commitments to concrete action.



Mavi

Mavi CEO Cüneyt Yavuz took the stage at Sustainability Talks Istanbul 2025.

In his speech during the panel titled "Leading the Transition: CEO & Industry Insights on the Future of Sustainable Fashion" he shared Mavi's All Blue sustainability strategy and explained how this strategy is integrated into the company's culture, vision, ways of working, products, and growth objectives.



Andreas Dorner - RE&UP

The team of RE&UP Recycling Technologies was very grateful and proud to join as Circularity Partner and help push circular fashion beyond ambition and into real, measurable impact.

Our message was clear:
Circularity isn't a promise. It's measurable. It's scalable. And it's happening now.



Marja Liisa Permiangas - Finnish Textile

Turkish companies welcomed us warmly to the event, and were interested to discuss business and collaboration opportunities to bring textile and fashion industry a step further in its sustainability.



Nicolas Prophete - Denim Deal

Great event, was good to meet familiar faces and connect with new people!



Suraj Bahirwani - Aditya Birla

Had a truly enriching experience speaking at the 6th Istanbul Sustainability Talks Forum, themed "Shared Responsibility, Shared Future."

My message was simple:
If we truly believe in a shared future, then the cost of sustainability must also be shared : fairly, transparently, and collaboratively : across brands, manufacturers, suppliers, and consumers.
Only then can our collective ambition turn into collective action.



Sarah Vollmer - ARMEDANGELS

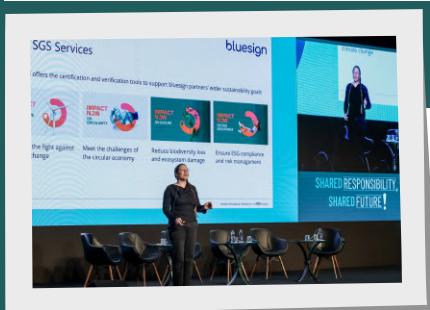
Honored to join the 6th Sustainability Talks Istanbul and the panel "Transparency & Traceability: Building Trust Across the Textile Value Chain."

Representing ARMEDANGELS, I shared a clear message: Transparency isn't a promise. It's a practice.



Selda İneler- TextileGenesis

It was an honour and a privilege for me to take part in the 6th Sustainability Talks Istanbul, joining the panel on Transparency & Traceability: Building Trust Across the Textile Value Chain.



Barbara Oswald - Bluesign

It was a pleasure to represent bluesign and SGS.



Hakan Karaosman - Politecnico di Milano

A holistic approach to industrial collaboration across the entire value chain is now needed, involving brands, fibre producers, yarn spinners, dye houses and chemical suppliers.

Thank you, Sustainability Talks Istanbul, for giving us the opportunity to discuss this.



Caterina Tonda - Kering

Glad to have joined Sustainability Talks Istanbul to share Kering's Material Innovation Lab perspective to a vital discussion on fashion's climate challenge.



Rhian Owen- Eurofins

It was an honour to join the panel at Sustainability Talks Istanbul on Tuesday to discuss Transparency & Traceability: Building Trust Across the Textile Value Chain.



Kübra Kaya Denge- Kipaş Textiles

This year, in addition to working closely with the organizing team to deliver Sustainability Talks Istanbul in the best possible way, I also had the opportunity to take part in the event as a panelist.

The main theme of this year's event, "Shared Responsibility, Shared Future," truly reflects our own approach to sustainability.



Cenk Bali - Thai Acrylic

Throughout the event, we engaged with key stakeholders to discuss emerging technologies, circular textile strategies, and potential collaborations that support a more sustainable value chain.



ITHIB

Organized for the 6th time this year in cooperation with our Association, the Sustainability Talks event was successfully completed with the strong participation of over 1,000 attendees.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our speakers who shared their knowledge and experience, to our stakeholders who contributed, and to all industry representatives whose participation significantly supported raising awareness of the green transformation process in our textile sector.



Heli Kangas - Valmet

Today in Istanbul, talking about Valmet's textile recycling solutions at Sustainability Talks Istanbul event. It has been so hectic that my colleague Shirin Asaadi didn't even make it to the pictures 😊



GFA

The Circular Fashion Partnership: Türkiye was launched on Tuesday by Global Fashion Agenda's Director of Impact, Christina Iskov, at Sustainability Talk Istanbul. Iskov took part in the panel discussion "Strategic Shifts in Sustainable Fashion and Textiles: Shaping What's Next."



KIPAS fibR-e

Introducing Kipaş fibR-e™ at Sustainability Talks Istanbul – a major milestone in our journey toward circular textiles. Together with our strategic partner Meltem Kimya, we shared how patented Molecular Recycling technology is enabling true Textile-to-Textile (T2T) recycling for polyester-based materials.



Kipaş Textiles

As a founding partner of Sustainability Talks Istanbul, we are privileged to celebrate the success of the 6th edition, which convened over 1,000 dedicated professionals focused on advancing sustainability within our industry.

Together, we are forging a path toward a brighter tomorrow, and we eagerly anticipate the next chapter at STI 2026.



Orbit Consulting

We are proud to have successfully completed the 6th edition of Sustainability Talks.

This year, in line with the themes of #SharedResponsibility and #SharedFuture, together with all our stakeholders, sponsors, and distinguished speakers from the textile industry, we highlighted the importance of shared transformation, a culture of collaboration, and collective action in the sector's sustainability journey.

Aster Textile

We're proud to have been part of Sustainability Talks Istanbul 2025 as a Corporate Partner, and it was a true pleasure to come together with 1,000+ participants for a day shaped by dialogue, connection, and collective responsibility.

Throughout the day, one message stood out clearly: Türkiye has the capability, capacity, and know-how to play a leading role in the global sustainability transition.



Thai Acrylic Fibre

A big thank you to everyone who visited us at Sustainability Talks Istanbul. We loved meeting you, hearing your thoughts, and sharing more about REGEL™ and our newest innovation, REGEL™ Micro.



AKSA

We have proudly participated in Sustainability Talks Istanbul, one of the region's leading platforms bringing together industry leaders, innovators, and sustainability advocates.



Archroma

We were thrilled to showcase our latest innovations and discuss how our solutions can support a more sustainable future.



Arik Bey

We've completed another amazing stop on our sustainability journey! 🌎

We were thrilled to showcase our latest innovations and discuss how our solutions can support a more sustainable future.

Thank you to all our partners and visitors who came to our stand and shared our eco-friendly vision at Sustainability Talks Istanbul.



ARMEDANGELS

Honored to join the 6th Sustainability Talks Istanbul and step onto the panel Transparency & Traceability: Building Trust Across the Textile Value Chain, a space where the future of our industry is shaped through honesty, data, and collective action.



Bluesign

Driving impact through collaboration. 



Control Union

As Control Union Türkiye, we are proud to be part of this important platform that contributes to the sustainable transformation of the industry.



Cotton Connect

See how we can scale traceability together and create resilient supply chains, through multi-stakeholder collaboration and innovation.



Covation Biomaterials Sorona

This year's theme for the show is "Shared Responsibility, Shared Future" and it's at the heart of our vision for making the textile space more sustainable through collaboration and innovation.



Denim Deal

The Denim Deal team was at the 6th edition of Sustainability Talks Istanbul, organized by The Orbit Consulting and Kipaş Textiles.

We are proud to be one of the official supporters of Sustainability Talks Istanbul 2025, a gathering that brings together the leaders driving real change across the textile and fashion industry.



Else Bornewa

The event provided a valuable opportunity to connect with industry partners, brands, and stakeholders, exchange perspectives, and explore new collaborations toward a more sustainable textile ecosystem.



Ereks Blue Matters

On December 9, we attended the 6th edition of Sustainability Talks Istanbul, held under the theme "Shared Responsibility, Shared Future," and—as we do every year—closely followed the key topics shaping our industry's future.



Eren Perakende

We are delighted to be among the sponsors of this year's Sustainability Talks Istanbul, which aims to raise awareness and support solution-oriented actions in the field of sustainability within the fashion and textile industry. We would like to thank all the teams who contributed to the realization of this valuable organization.

Eurofins

We were delighted to attend Sustainability Talks Istanbul this week, which brought together leaders across the textile value chain to address sourcing, traceability, chemical management and the practical realities of implementing sustainable practices.



EY

At the Sustainability Talks 2025, EY Türkiye Partner and Climate Change and Sustainability Services Leader Ece Sevin took part as the moderator of the panel titled "Strategic Shifts in Sustainable Fashion and Textiles: Shaping What's Next"



Intertek

The 6th Sustainability Talks Istanbul event brought together producers, suppliers, and innovative solutions that make a difference in the sustainability journey on the same platform at Hilton Bosphorus. 

As Intertek Türkiye, we are proud to have participated as a sponsor in this important event that strengthens sustainability in the fashion and textile industry.



ITEKS

As ITEKS, we are proud to support an important event in the field of sustainability together with our valued brands, Fong's and Osthoff Senge.



Konzek

It was truly valuable for us to be part of this strong ecosystem, where we addressed the future of sustainable textile production from the perspective of data, artificial intelligence, and digital transformation, and to discuss the manufacturing mindset of the future together.



KORTEKS

We were delighted to take part as a Large Sponsor at Sustainability Talks Istanbul 2025, held for the 6th edition this year. We would like to thank all stakeholders who contributed to this important organization.



NORDShield

For our first event in Türkiye, we are at Sustainability Talks Istanbul to demonstrate that a better alternative is not just a concept, but a production-ready reality.

OCA

It's a great opportunity to exchange insights, explore collaboration and highlight how we're driving impact across the organic cotton sector.



SGS

We are delighted to be the mobile application sponsor of this major gathering that shapes sustainability in the fashion and textile industry.

USB Certification

We strongly believe that gatherings like these where diverse perspectives can be openly exchanged under one roof play a critical role in the development of our industry. We would like to thank the Sustainability Talks Istanbul team for providing such a valuable platform and contributing to meaningful sector dialogue.



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6TH SUSTAINABILITY TALKS İSTANBUL



9 December 2025



Hilton Bosphorus

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, SHARED FUTURE!

In cooperation with

ORBIT CONSULTING



KIPAS TEXTILES

Strategic Partner:



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