



RETRAKT EU Conference: Join the Circle – in Brussels

"Turning Challenges into Chances"

New EU textile-related legislation, such as the Ecodesign Directive, is currently challenging the textile sector.

Together, we will transform these *"Challenges into Chances"* and warmly invite you to join us in the "Heart of Europe" on **19 November 2026**.

We will shed light on new textile recycling technologies and significant investments, the Digital Product Passport, new skills and job creation as well as first successful circular textile business models.

Join us to learn, network, and shape the future of the circular textile sector together!

We are looking forward to meeting you in Brussels!

The RETRAKT Team



19 November 2026

08:30 h – 14:00 h

Representation of NRW at European Union
Rue Montoyer 47, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Registration:

<https://pretix.eu/retrakt/EUconference2026/>

RETRAKT EU Conference Agenda

19 November 2026, Brussels

08:30 **Registration & Coffee**

09:00 **Welcome & RETRAKT Project Presentation**

Christoph Hohoff, FOM University of Applied Sciences
Prof. Thomas Mühlbradt, FOM University of Applied Sciences
Nicole Espey, ITA Institut für Textiltechnik of RWTH Aachen University

09:30 **Keynote: Circular Economy Enabling Innovation and Job Creation in the European Union**

Robbie Stakelum, Brussels Liaison Officer,
Eurofound (European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions)

10:00 **Circular Transformation of the Textile Sector: Turning Challenges into Chances**

Pedro Gonçalves, Senior Policy Officer, EURATEX

10:30 **„Regeneration Hub One“ – Reju’s First Industrial Fiber-to-Fiber Recycling Center**

Gianluca Pandolfo, Head of Sales and Business, Reju

11:00 **Panel Discussion: From Innovation to Implementation**

11:20 **Interactive Coffee Break: Walk & Talk**

12:00 **Best Practice Example: Circular Corporate Fashion**

Jaap Rijnsdorp, CEO, Schijvens Corporate Fashion

12:30 **Circular Economy in California – International Perspective on Textile Recycling and EPR on Textiles**

Deb Zell, CEO, PlsReturnIt Inc

13:00 **Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks**

Moderation: Nicole Espey, ITA Institut für Textiltechnik of RWTH Aachen University

13:30 **Closing Lunch & Networking**



Exhibition Partners (i.A.)

- Digital Product Passport - Demonstrator (i2solutions GmbH)
- FOM University of Applied Sciences
- apsus Institute
- PERFORMANCE DAYS
- Munich Fabric Start
- DATIpilot Innovationscommunity Circular Textiles (CirTex)
- Euregio Meuse-Rhine: Circular Activities and cross-border collaboration (CCE, RWTH Aachen University)
- Circular Innovation Systems (HumTec, RWTH Aachen University)
- ITA Institut für Textiltechnik of RWTH Aachen University

This project is funded as part of the "Future of Work" program by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) and the European Union through the European Social Fund Plus (ESF Plus).

With funding from the:

