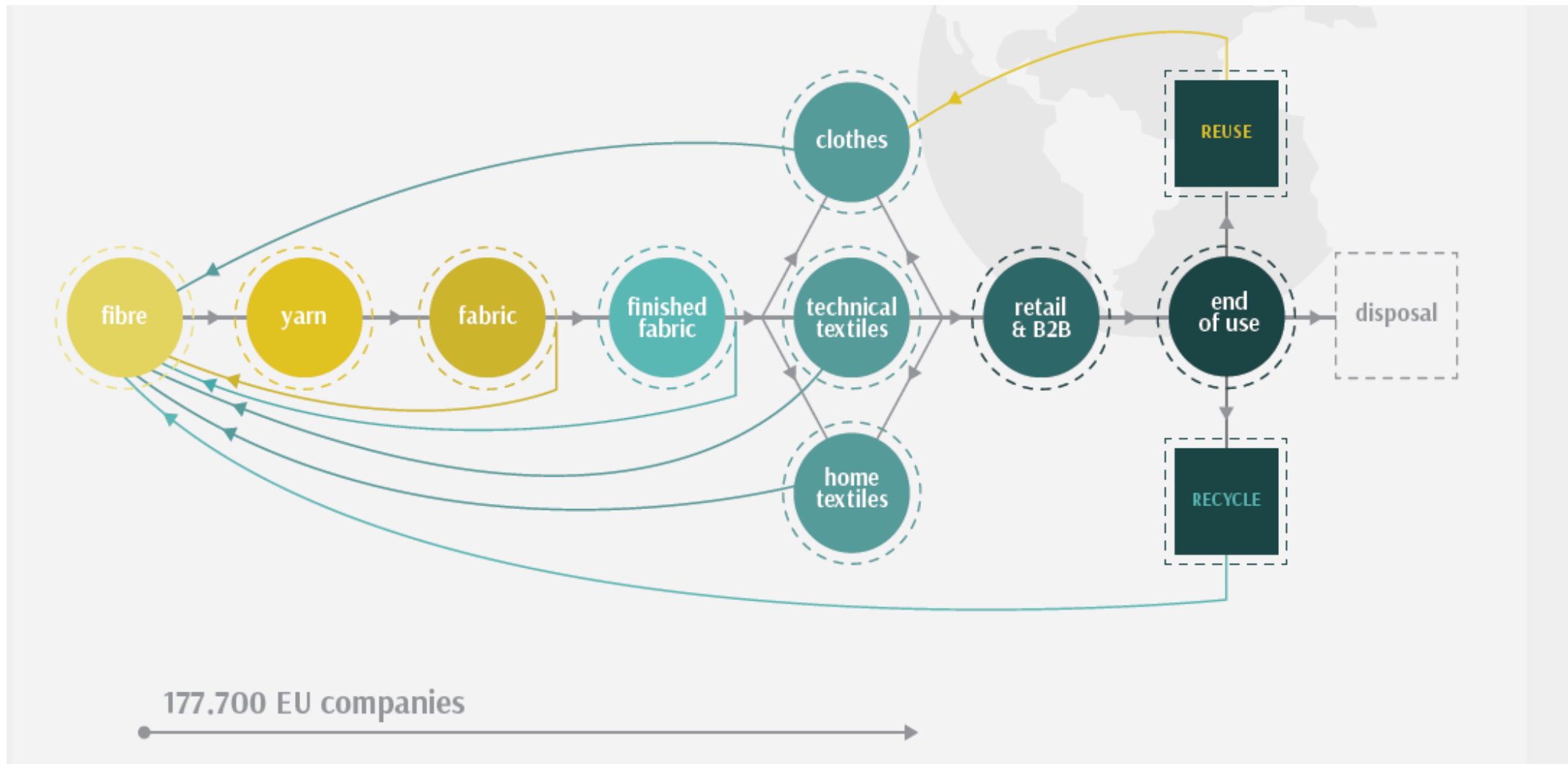


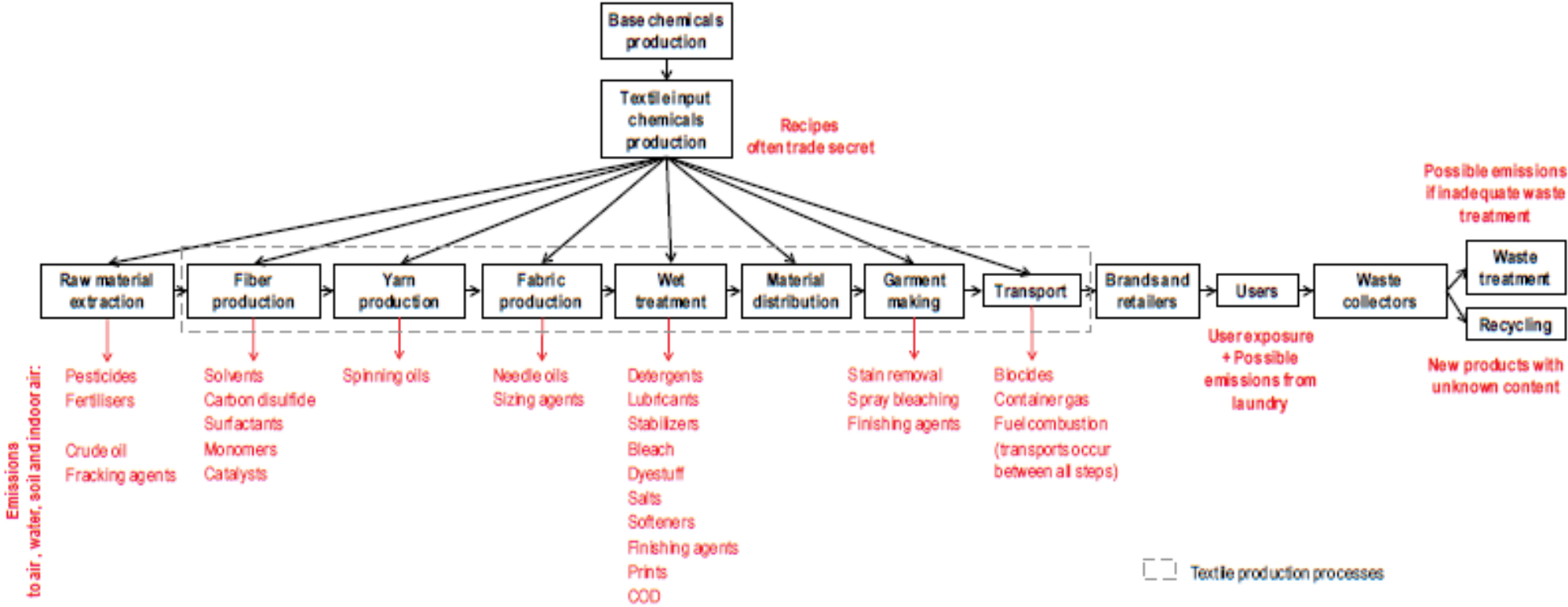
REACH 2018 and beyond

European Textile Industry Challenges

How textiles are made?



Textile value chain



Source: Roos (2016) “Advancing life cycle assessment of textile products to include textile chemicals”

What happens today?

- Brands' MRSL/RSL ensure safety of products
- Recent "textile" EU regulation, to apply in 2 years

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Technical workshop on potential restriction of CMRs 1A and 1B in textiles

Published on: 01/09/2017

After the public consultation that ran until March 2016. The Commission organised a workshop on the possible restriction of hazardous substances (CMR 1A and 1B) in textile articles and clothing for consumer use under Article 68(2) of Regulation EC No 1907/2006 (REACH)

Event date: 07/02/2017

Location: Centre A. Borschette, Rue Froissart, 36 - Brussels - Belgium

New regulatory action targeting T&C sector

- KEMI and ANSES action to restrict substances causing allergic contact dermatitis from clothes and textiles

Which substances?

Skin sensitisers (1/1A/1B); Skin irritants 2; Skin Corrosives 1/1A/1B/1C found on finished articles

→ approx. **350 substances**

Which products?

Finished textile and leather articles, hides and furs with direct and prolonged skin contact

How EURATEX deals with the new restriction proposal?

- First task: provide an official response to ECHA Call for Evidence (Sept 2018)

- Who to talk to in the textile value chain?

Textile suppliers

Testing labs

Member associations



To obtain an EU wide picture of the sector

- Talks with other sectors

Downstream and upstream sectors, for further knowledge

Key considerations

- 1) Target substances that remain on finished article
- 2) Exclude skin irritants and corrosives
- 3) Consider harmonised classification
- 4) Focus on risk assessment
- 5) Avoid double regulation

Aim: to achieve a meaningful and enforceable restriction

Preparing for next steps:

- Focusing on substances that matter:
 - In which textile and clothing articles is the substance present?
 - What is its function in the final article?
 - Can the substance migrate and be absorbed by the skin?
 - Can the substance be replaced? ... etc.



Long process...
First draft of the restriction
might be available in 2020

Substitution – case of PFOA restriction

Baby's jacket,
Outdoor
jacket, pajama,
etc...

≠

Uniform of an
oil rig worker,
firefighters'
uniform, etc

COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2017/1000

of 13 June 2017

amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) as regards perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related substances

(b) 4 July 2023 to:

(i) textiles for the protection of workers from risks to their health and safety;

Substitution – case of PFOA restriction



Picture source: MIDWOR project Layman's report

- EURATEX, MIDWOR team, AEI Tèxtils coorganized a workshop in Barcelona March 2017 gathering different actors in the textile supply chain
- Testing alternatives in all applications, considering reaction with other chemicals... → *more of this type of research in the future*

Other key challenges

- Addressing chemicals of concern in the circular economy
- Planned restrictions on short-chain PFASs
- Planned restriction on formaldehyde & its releasers in consumer articles

Conclusions

- Complex restriction needs consideration of the entire value chain
- Hard case on substitution – “one size does not fit all”
- Challenges in the circular economy

Contacts

Dunja Drmač

Sustainability Officer

dunja.drmac@euratex.eu



@dunja_drmac