



European Commission
DG Research

Workshop
The **MANUFUTURE** Platform
Milan, October 20th, 2004

European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing (ETP-FTC)

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Milan, Palazzo Affari dei Giureconsulti, 20th October 2004




ETP-FTC Rationale & Background

- October 2003 EC Communication: Textile & Clothing Industry
- key industrial sector for enlarged European Union (4% ind. output, 8% ind. employment, ~224,000 companies in EU-25)
- T/C High Level Group (since March 2004) – holistic approach to long-term industry transformation & competitiveness (R&D, innovation, education, IPR protection, legislative framework, trade...)
- Major R&D recommendation: Set-up of European Technology Platform to fight research fragmentation in Europe and to develop a long-term research & innovation agenda for the sector
- October 2004: EC Communication in response to HLG recommendations – Favourable view on establishment of Textile Technology Platform

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ETP-FTC VISION 2025

- Abandon of commodity fibres, filaments & fabrics, towards specialty products from flexible high-tech processes based on nano-, micro- & biotechnologies, digital processes ...
- Establishment and expansion of textiles as raw material of choice in many sectors and application fields (transport systems, construction, medical applications, consumer electronics...)
- End era of mass manufacture of textile products, towards new era of customisation, personalisation, functionalisation, intelligent production, logistics & distribution


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ETP-FTC STRATEGIC AGENDA

- Establishment of overall platform, vision and governance, public launch
- Bottom-up creation of permanent thematic expert working groups involving cross-sectoral industry, services, academia, authorities and other stakeholders
- Set-up of supporting horizontal task groups on research-related topics
- Development of long-term thematic visions and related strategic research agendas with input from other platforms or technology initiatives
- Mobilisation of resources and implementation of research programmes
- Continuous review of research agendas, implementation programmes and resource allocations

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ETP-FTC

Synergies & complementarities with the Manufacture/Manufacturing-enabling Platform

- Manufacture: co-operation on strategies for development of new textile & clothing manufacturing technology
- Technology breakthrough in clothing technology (intelligent automation & micro-factory concepts)
- Strategic move towards flexible, short-run oriented, fully integrated systems for conventional textile processes
- Industrial-scale introduction of high-tech processes (processes at micro & nano scale, enzymatic processing, digital printing, dyeing, finishing etc.)

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Synergies & complementarities with other emerging platforms

- Sustainable Chemistry: co-operation on development of new fibres and novel processing options & related agents
- Road, rail & maritime transport, aerospace: Joint strategic expansion of use of textile materials for safe, light-weight, energy efficient transport systems
- Construction: co-operation on strategic development of textile-based safe, light-weight building materials & components

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