



PRESS RELEASE

## **“BOOSTING TRANSITION”: SISTEMA MODA MAKES CALL TO ACTION IN SECOND EDITION OF VENICE SUSTAINABLE FASHION FORUM**

*Event at the Giorgio Cini Foundation in Venice on October 26 and 27 focuses on the evolution of the supply chain and an appeal to institutions to introduce specific measures to accelerate the sustainable transition.*

*"Just Fashion Transition 2023" Observatory: in one year, Europe's top 100 companies increased their sustainability controls by 17%. The full study will be unveiled at the summit.*

**Milan, October 10, 2023 - The 2nd edition of the "Venice Sustainable Fashion Forum", the summit dedicated to the sustainable transition of the Fashion supply chain, was presented today at the headquarters of Sistema Moda Italia in Milan, promoted by Sistema Moda Italia, The European House - Ambrosetti and Confindustria Veneto Est - Venice Padua Rovigo Treviso Metropolitan Area. The event will be held in Venice at the Giorgio Cini Foundation on October 26 and 27.**

Announcing the initiative, which will bring together the main Fashion & Luxury supply chain stakeholders, were **Sergio Tamborini**, Chairperson Sistema Moda Italia, **Flavio Sciuccati**, Senior Partner & Director Global Fashion Unit The European House - Ambrosetti, **Andrea Favaretto Rubelli**, Vice-Chairperson Group Sistema Moda Confindustria Veneto Est, **Andrea Crespi**, Vice-Chairperson Sistema Moda Italia Sustainability, and **Carlo Cici**, Partner & Head of Sustainability Practices at The European House - Ambrosetti.

**"Boosting Transition"** is the title chosen for the 2023 edition of the Forum: the goal is to emphasize the urgency of effective and coordinated interventions to deliver concrete results in reducing the environmental and social impact of the fashion industry. The call is addressed to all supply chain players, particularly institutions, politicians and legislators, to promote a cohesive approach, including through a standardized regulatory system. It will also be an opportunity to **appeal to the world of finance**, which, with its key role in supporting businesses, can enable industry players not only to achieve the ambitious goals set by the European Union, but also to apply a new concept of competitiveness that goes beyond the price factor.



The need to be aligned with new, internationally-shared standards is increasingly pressing. This is highlighted by the fact that, **in just one year, Europe's top 100 fashion enterprises increased their sustainability controls by 17% in ESG areas**, confirming that the industry is seeing dynamic change. However, of the 100 companies analyzed, the best-in-class meet only **70%** of the maturity requirements of ESG controls: the path to sustainability is - even for the best - uphill.

The data are a preview of the 2nd edition of **"Just Fashion Transition 2023"** the permanent observatory on the sustainable transition of key fashion, apparel, footwear and leather goods supply chains by The European House of Ambrosetti. The strategic study, which will be presented at the opening of the summit, analyzed more than **2,700 Italian and European companies**, assessed the ESG performance of **366 companies in the supply chain**, conducted a discussion with **21 industry experts**, and conducted policy intelligence on **32 regulatory instruments** that directly affect the future of European fashion.

#### **FORUM TOPICS**

During the **first day** of the Venice Sustainable Fashion Forum, the **major geopolitical situations that influence the issue of sustainability and climate change globally** will be considered. Regarding social sustainability, the implications of "fast fashion", the issue of workers' human rights, and the role of activism and consumer awareness in light of growing economic and social inequalities will be investigated. The paradigm shift toward a circular model will be explored by strongly-performing companies in the supply chain and with the help of authoritative experts, including representatives of Euratex, a European association representing the Textile-Clothing supply chain. The topic of climate change will be addressed by analyzing some of the main drivers of environmental impact, from pollutant emissions to water consumption and contamination to effects on biodiversity. The discussion will focus on the key role of innovation as an enabler and accelerator of the transition to sustainable fashion. In addition, entrepreneurs in the sector will share best practices and effective solutions to combine competitiveness and resilience with a responsible approach.

The **second day** will be devoted to **regulations and sustainable finance and possible new solutions to global challenges, from reuse to ecodesign to new business models** to meet consumer expectations. Finally, proposals and recommendations will be formulated, requests to be addressed to institutions, shared by various stakeholders and necessary to achieve a just and effective transition.

#### **DECLARATIONS**

**Chairperson of Sistema Moda Italia, Sergio Tamborini, underlines "Sustainable transition is an urgent strategic issue for the Italian fashion industry, which in the first six months of 2023 reported turnover of approx. Euro 58 billion, with a growth projection of 7.3% for the first half of the year and a forecast for 2023 of approx. Euro 112 billion in turnover. Together with the policies to support innovation promoted by Sistema Moda Italia, the Venice Sustainable Fashion Forum 2023 represents a fresh opportunity for SMI to firmly point out to institutions and the financial world the priorities of the sector, with a special focus on the future needs and challenges of the textile and fashion supply chain."**

**Flavio Sciuccati, Partner at The European House-Ambrosetti and Director of the Global Fashion Unit:** *"With the second edition of the Forum, we renew our conviction that for a just transition of the Fashion & Luxury sector, we need to start with manufacturing. In this transition, Italy's fashion supply chains and districts play a central role. It is a challenge that can only be successfully met through scientific research into new solutions and products that are increasingly durable, reusable and separable; this will require investments that will be difficult to sustain for companies in the sector, which are often SMEs operating on lower margins than companies closer to distribution and the consumer. Ahead of the 2023 edition, we continued to monitor the progress of sustainability in supply chains with a questionnaire; data from 374 respondents confirm how size as well as capital is directly proportional to the ability to act on sustainability issues. We will also turn the spotlight on the leather supply chain, which is often equated with textiles despite the specifics of its production process and regulations."*

**Leopoldo Destro, Chairperson of Confindustria Veneto Est:** *"This second edition of the Forum makes Venice an international focus of the discussion on the sustainable transition of a key Made in Italy supply chain such as fashion, which - in Veneto alone - exceeds 14.5 billion in exports. A creative and at the same time manufacturing center of excellence, represented by the fine textile tradition of the Lagoon City and the Brenta Footwear District, now more than ever focused on the beautiful, well-made and sustainable. The challenge now is to combine competitiveness and sustainability, support industry players, particularly SMEs, with appropriate investment stimuli including in the integration of ESG criteria. That is the shared appeal we will make from Venice."*

The two-day program, which is currently being finalized, can be viewed at [events.ambrosetti.eu/venicefashion2023](https://events.ambrosetti.eu/venicefashion2023)

*Venice Sustainable Fashion Forum is undertaken with the contribution of the Venice Rovigo Chamber of Commerce and numerous industry players: Alperia, Fondazione Leaf, Consorzio Physis S.B, D.B. Group, DNV – Supply Chain & Product Assurance, Give Back Beauty, Greenberg Traurig Santa Maria, Samsung Galaxy, Sopra Steria, UniCredit, Mastrotto Group, Florence Group, Acimit, Assomac, Carbonsink, Chargeurs PCC, Clerici Tessuto, FGL International, Fiorini International, Guess Europe, Pattern Group, Unisalute.*

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**SMI (Sistema Moda Italia)** is one of the world's largest organizations representing textile and fashion industrialists. The Federation represents an industry that, with just under 400,000 employees and just under 50,000 companies, is a key component of Italy's economic and manufacturing base. The Federation seeks to protect and promote the interests of the industry and its members and exclusively represents the entire supply chain, domestically and internationally, in dealings with institutions, government departments and economic, political, trade union and social organizations. SMI's activities contribute to making textiles and fashion one of the most economically important sectors of Italian industry. SMI represents industries in the entire supply chain and is the official mediator of national and international institutions and organizations. It is the national trade federation, a mixed organization, strongly focused on integration with the community. In addition to businesses, Associations may be members of the Federation. It belongs to Confindustria and Confindustria Moda and is the most representative founding member of Euratex, the European Apparel and Textile Confederation.

**The European House - Ambrosetti** is a professional Group of about 300 professionals operating since 1965 and has grown significantly over the years thanks to the contribution of many Partners, with numerous activities in Italy, Europe and globally. The Group has three offices in Italy and a number of overseas offices, in addition to other partnerships around the world. Its main role is to support companies in the integrated and synergistic management of the four critical dynamics of value generation processes: See, Design, Produce, and Enhance. For more than 50 years we have supported Italian businesses, providing Consultancy to about 1,300 clients every year by carrying out more than 250 Strategic Studies and Scenarios for Italian and European institutions and companies, and about 120 projects for entrepreneurial families. Alongside these numbers, about 3,000 Italian and international experts are involved each year in the 550 events held for the more than 17,000 managers accompanied on their growth trajectories. The Group benefits from an invaluable wealth of international relationships at the highest level in its various business sectors, including with the heads of major international institutions and individual countries. Since 2013, The European House - Ambrosetti has been named in the "Best Private Think Tanks" category - 1st Think Tank in Italy, 4th in the European Union and is among the world's most respected independent think tanks out of 11,175 globally (source: "Global Go To Think Tanks Report" by the University of Pennsylvania). The European House - Ambrosetti has been

recognized by the Top Employers Institute as one of the 141 Top Employer 2023 entities in Italy. For further information, please visit [www.ambrosetti.eu](http://www.ambrosetti.eu)

**Confindustria Veneto Est - Venice Padua Rovigo Treviso Metropolitan Area (CVE)** is the association of industrial companies and innovative and technological services operating in the provinces of Venice, Padua, Rovigo, and Treviso, founded on a network organization of offices. In terms of size and representation, it is the second largest association in the Confindustria System, with 5,000 member companies of all sizes, producing goods and services in twenty-one product sectors, employing 270,000 people. It operates in a key region for Italy's business culture and economy, with a vocation for advanced manufacturing, international projection, technological innovation and tourism, with an aggregate GDP of Euro 86 million, 1.1 million employees (410 thousand in industry) and exports of Euro 38.3 billion in 2022. CVE is committed to the action of representing and protecting the interests of member companies in dealings with institutions and local, national and international government, economic and trade union organizations, the world of education, universities and research, and finance. It provides specialized services and consulting for labor relations, digital and sustainable transition, training and the attraction of qualified human capital, business-to-business collaborations, opening capital to third parties, credit relations, international expansion, energy, environment and safety. The goal is to help support the system of small, medium and large enterprises and supply chains in the challenge of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, developing the region as an extensive integrated area. The mission is both to work alongside companies in this major transformation and to press for an industrial, regional, national and European policy that can effectively support them. CVE is available to members with 140 professionals and its own specialized business units.

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