Overview

- Presentation of Utexbel
- Products with sustainable fibers
- Challenges
Usines Textiles Réunies de Belgique

Started in 1929 in Ronse with the merger of a number of textile mills in a period of concentration and rationalisation.

Utexbel in brief

- Belgian family business
- Integrated from fiber to fabric
- 900 employees
- Yarns & Flat fabrics
  - Work & Protective Wear
  - Fabrics for public tenders
  - Casual Wear
  - Technical Fabrics
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Fibers and Yarns

- R-PET fibers, Tencel fibers and blends
  - Ring and OE yarns, fabrics for workwear
- Recycled cotton fibers
  - Cotton noils
  - Recycled raw-white fibers (industrial waste)
  - OE-yarns: coarse counts
- Blends without dyeing guarantee
  - Industrial waste

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Recycled fibers: challenges

- Pre consumer waste (from making up)
  - No washing treatments yet
  - Collection per color and composition
  - Mechanical actions shorten the fibers

- Post consumer waste
  - Lots of washing cycles: fiber material is destroyed
  - Different compositions and colors: collection & sorting
  - Soiled articles, unknown chemicals
  - Foreign matter

Recycled fibers: challenges

- Input for spinning process
  - Free of foreign non-textile matter
  - Fabric structure has to be opened
  - Minimum fibre length (min 25 mm for coarse counts)
  - Colors have to be isolated
  - Need to blend part of virgin fibers
  - Homogeneous volume available for a spinning batch
Recycled yarns: challenges

- Output of spinning process
  - Prototype level
  - Coarse yarns
  - Limited regularity and rough aspect
  - Limited mechanical characteristics
  - Different colors
  - Not readily useable for the same garments as where the fibers came from

Thank you for your attention