

Bremen Cotton Exchange Update

Supply Chain Laws in the Spotlight – Clear Words at the 11th General Assembly of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles

Around 125 participants came together on 14 and 15 May for the 11th General Assembly of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles (PST) in Berlin. The Cotton Exchange has been a founding member since 2014. As a multi-stakeholder initiative with currently 122 members, the alliance unites companies, associations, non-governmental organisations, standard organisations, trade unions, and the German federal government. The Bremen Cotton Exchange was represented by Laura Petersen, Assistant Communication and International Relations.

Gina Burgard, Head of the Partnership Secretariat, opened the event with a review of the past year and an outlook on the future of the Partnership. Political and economic framework conditions have changed significantly in recent years. Against this backdrop, it has become increasingly important for the organisation's working methods to take into account the perspectives of rights holders, employees and civil society.

The following day, participants had the opportunity to engage in dialogue with Dr Bärbel Kofler, Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in an open forum. The dialogue focused on the debate surrounding legal requirements and regulations, such as the German Supply Chain Act and the EU Supply Chain Directive (CSDDD). Dr Kofler emphasised the importance of recognising the difference between deregulation and the desired reduction in bureaucracy.

The dialogue was followed by a keynote speech from Delara Burkhardt, an SPD (Social Democratic Party of Germany) Member of the European Parliament who joined virtually and provided further political input. She emphasised that the simplifications proposed in the EU's omnibus package could result in the undermining of key sustainability legislation.



Photo: Open forum with Dr. Bärbel Kofler © Partnership for Sustainable Textiles

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BREMEN VALUE DIFFERENCES

The value differences of the Bremen Cotton Exchange No. 2/23 according to Bremen Cotton Report No. 29/30 of 03 August 2023 remain in force until further notice. They can be found on the [website](#) of the Bremen Cotton Exchange.

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STATISTICS



Data on the Cotton Trade of the Federal Republic of Germany

I. Raw Cotton Imports (Special Trade) including comber waste and linters

A) TOTAL RESULTS

January-March	2023	2024	2025
Tonnes	3,583	3,258	1,448
Bales (à 480 lbs)	16,456	14,963	6,652

B) ORDERED BY SELECTED ORIGINS (IN TONNES)

January-March	2023	2024	2025	%
Greece	605.9	151.7	416.5	28.8
Spain	505.2	117.4	271.5	18.8
USA	73.2	587.2	214.3	14.8
France	0.0	0.0	143.3	9.9
Uganda	0.0	0.0	114.1	7.9
Tanzania	99.1	21.0	94.3	6.5
Brazil	232.7	705.2	91.2	6.3
Israel	374.7	75.6	23.0	1.6
Austria	0.0	0.0	22.9	1.6
China	0.7	0.1	20.7	1.4
Türkiye	43.3	79.3	10.3	-
Czech Republic	0.0	0.0	7.9	0.6
Peru	0.0	0.0	7.0	0.5
Italy	0.0	0.1	5.1	0.4
Tajikistan	0.0	0.0	4.4	0.3
Egypt	15.4	49.4	4.2	0.3
United Kingdom	7.5	7.9	3.5	0.3
Others	*1,668.8	**1,542.2	6.1	0
Total	3,626.5	3,337.1	1,460.3	-
Total	3,582.9	3,257.8	1,448.2	100.0

*) thereof Kazakhstan 578 t, Senegal 502 t, Benin 500 t

**) thereof Benin 490 t, Kazakhstan 468 t, Burkina Faso 246 t, Paraguay 174 t, Argentina 144 t

II. Re-Exports of Cotton (Special Trade)

A) TOTAL RESULTS

January-March	2023	2024	2025
Tonnes	249	292	189
Bales (à 480 lbs)	1,142	1,342	867

B) ORDERED BY SELECTED DESTINATIONS (IN TONNES)

January-March	2023	2024	2025
Austria	10.7	57.7	62.8
Italy	5.8	16.6	44.9
Vietnam	0	0	41.5
Portugal	33.9	69.7	15.8
Estonia	0	10	10.6
Spain	0	45	6.2
Netherlands	0.2	6.1	4.3
Poland	8.1	5.7	2.7
Others	*189.9	**81.4	0
Total	248.6	292.2	188.8

*) thereof Bosnia and Herzegovina 71 t, Czech Republic 45 t, Serbia 38 t

**) thereof Bosnia and Herzegovina 46 t, Czech Republic 27 t

Statistics on raw cotton imports into the Federal Republic of Germany will be continuously published in a different way. The countries India, Turkey and Pakistan deliver only small amounts of raw cotton to Germany; nevertheless, the Statistisches Bundesamt (Federal Statistical Office) misleadingly registers them as suppliers of raw cotton imports. In fact, they deliver mainly comber waste and linters. Due to these reasons we adjusted this statistic regarding these three countries. The figures in pale letters are those published by the Federal Office. Data that the Bremen Cotton Exchange considers correct is printed in fat letters.

III. German Foreign Trade in Cotton Textile Products

January-March	2023	2024	2025*	+/-	%**
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IMPORTS - TONNES -

Cotton Yarns	10,093	10,088	10,029	-	0.6
Woven/Knitted Fabrics	8,845	6,507	8,450	+	29.9
Finished Products	194,092	177,633	209,700	+	18.1
TOTAL - Tonnes -	213,030	194,228	228,179	+	17.5
- Million Euros -	5,111	4,291	5,050	+	17.7

EXPORTS - TONNES -

Cotton Yarns	3,460	3,097	2,410	-	22.2
Woven/Knitted Fabrics	10,467	8,440	7,597	-	10.0
Finished Products	84,172	77,991	75,856	-	2.7
TOTAL - Tonnes -	98,099	89,528	85,863	-	4.1
- Million Euros -	3,352	3,081	2,979	-	3.3

IMPORT SURPLUS - TONNES -

Cotton Yarns	6,634	6,992	7,619	+	9.0
Woven/Knitted Fabrics ^o	-1,622	-1,933	854	+	144.1
Finished Products	109,920	99,642	133,843	+	34.3
TOTAL - Tonnes -	114,932	104,700	142,316	+	35.9
- Million Euros -	1,759	1,210	2,071	+	71.2

*) preliminary

**) percentage change 2025:2024

^o) 2023 + 2024 Export Surplus

