

## Italian study measures jacket's eco-footprint

MILAN – Europe's only vertically integrated textile mill has announced the results of a initiative to measure the product environmental footprint (PEF) of a 100 per cent 'Made in Italy' jacket. Warp knitted fabric manufacturer Eurojersey worked in partnership with Italian yarn business Radici Group and Herno design and manufacturing on the research, aimed at certifying and tracking the environmental impact of a

Herno man's jacket.

PEF is a European Union developed methodology for the calculation, assessment, and third-party assurance of the environmental footprint of products and services, using LCA. Given the disparate nature of textile production, with different stages of production often carried out in different parts of the globe, gaining a true understanding of the environmental impact of a garment is problematic.

## Biodegradability in textiles to feature at Berlin event

BERLIN – *Back to nature* is the theme for the April 2017 edition of this spring's Performance Days show which takes place in Munich from April 26 – 27. The show is, once again, a complete sell-out in terms of exhibitor numbers, a reflection of the current strength of the performance apparel sector in Europe.

With environmental issues usually on the agenda, opening the second day of the fair's seminars will be Sophie Mather who will take a look at the 'myths and connections' of biodegradable textiles and how this plays out in our industry. Biodegradability is a term that we hear often, but Mather will ask if its true meaning is often misinterpreted and wrongly used. Is it good, bad and what does it mean in different global areas? In addition, the Hohenstein Institute will take a closer look at the aerobic biodegradation of textiles, pointing out how the biodegradation of textiles can be 'more than just a function'.

Meanwhile, the OWS contract research laboratory will take a closer look at standardisation in all its various guises, including degradation in soil, water and marine, whether by the end-consumer or industrial setting. Guests will also include Solvay, Smartfiber and Lavalan before Susanne Volz takes a look at the value chain – including packaging – to decide when and where biodegradability should be part of the sustainability concept at all.

The day will close with Rüdiger Röhrig asking questions about what is the true meaning of sustainability, its opportunities for performance apparel and how it can be matched together with current technological acceleration in the textile sector. ■

## Schoeller and Textilcolor develop ecodye offering

SEVELEN – A Swiss cooperation between textile manufacturer Schoeller and Textilcolor, a specialist in auxiliaries and dyes, has led to the development of ecodye, an auxiliary option for polyester dyeing which, it is claimed, accelerates the dyeing process and contributes to cutting costs while offering a more sustainable, resource-efficient option.

Ecodye is claimed to use less time, water and energy. It shortens the heating phase thus accelerating process time by over 30 per cent and, at the same time, reduces energy consumption by 20 per cent and water use by 25 per cent as the process means that the fibre can be cleaned in the cooling dye bath.

In addition, ecodye is claimed to improve the dyeing levelness in polyester textiles. Spots and dye agglomeration are said to be completely avoided and the precipitation on the goods - which arises as a result of polyester oligomers - is no longer evident. Ecodye is said to provide good shade stability and avoid reproduction problems from batch to batch, "thus reducing the rate of double staining and increasing the capacity utilisation and productivity of the dyeing mill on a long-term basis."

The technology is currently being used by polyester-processing customers in the areas outdoor wear, sportswear and technical knitted fabrics, primarily in Europe, South and Middle America, Turkey, Bangladesh and China. ■

The three businesses partnerd to understand the impact of every step of the jacket's production cycle.

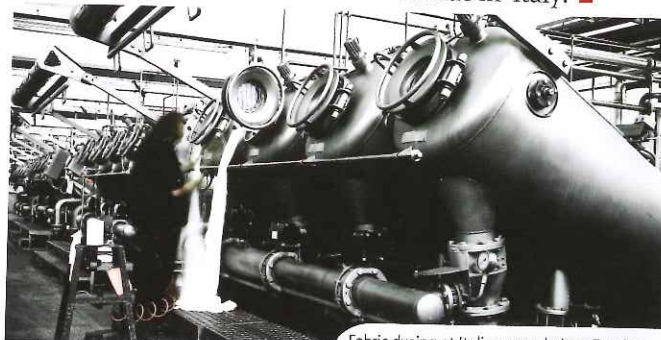
Eurojersey's integrated approach evaluated the environmental impact of the jacket in areas such as energy consumption, climate changes impact, reducing ozone layer and depletion of soil and water.

Findings from the study include climate change impact of 11.35 CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per kg; water resource depletion for use or alteration of 309 litres

of water; and land use of soil of 10.76 kgC deficit.

This work could – in theory – be rolled out to other apparel brands seeking to offer consumers better environmental information about clothing.

The study also compared the environmental cost of producing a jacket in China and in Italy. Eurojersey found that, "the environmental cost of the jacket made in China is equivalent to 5.22 Euros against 1.97 Euros of the one made in Italy. ■



Fabric dyeing at Italian warp knitter Eurojersey