



**SWISS
TEXTILES**
**GLOBAL
TEXTILES**
**UNIQUE
TEXTILES**

**JOINT DECLARATION CITI AND SWISS TEXTILES
STRONG SUPPORT FOR A TRADE AND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (TEPA)**

CITI and Swiss Textiles are the national associations of the textile and apparel industry in India and Switzerland. Together they represent the companies in this diversified sector and are committed to improve the market conditions for the benefit of their member companies.

In both countries, the textile and apparel industry are of great importance for the national economy. The industries are embedded in global value chains and depend on good multilateral and bilateral relations. Textiles and clothing are amongst the most traded goods in bilateral trade. In order to maintain and expand these relations and to tap the full potential a comprehensive Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) is of utmost importance. The textile and clothing sector and thus the national economy of both India and Switzerland can benefit in various ways:

- Tariff as well as non-tariff trade barriers can be eliminated with a TEPA. This promotes cooperation between companies in both countries, facilitate trade and enables more competitive prices. However, in order for the TEPA to be used effectively, it is crucial that rules of origin are agreed upon which manufacturers can also effectively fulfil considering their supply chains
- The Indian and Swiss textile sectors complement each other ideally in terms of production. Switzerland offers itself as a buyer for raw materials and intermediate products, which can then be transformed in Switzerland and presented on the Indian or the European market as high-quality and sustainable end products.
- At the same time, a TEPA promotes mutual direct investment and makes it possible to combine the production chains of both countries. This would provide a clear advantage for the development of production facilities as well as the mutual training of professionals. In this way, innovation, which is important for both sides, can be guaranteed and continued.
- The TEPA will also confirm the commitment of India and Switzerland to develop their trade and investment relations in a way which is conducive to sustainable development. This is in line with the objectives of CITI and Swiss Textiles and would respond to the heightened expectations of our customers in this regard.
- Finally, a TEPA would enable both countries to deepen and combine research and development in the textile sector. Here, too, the two countries are complementary and could benefit from cooperation.

Together, CITI and Swiss Textiles declare and encourage the responsible bodies of the Indian and Swiss governments to reach a swift and pragmatic conclusion on the negotiations for a mutually beneficial Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement.

Signed on the 23rd November 2023, Delhi, India

For and on behalf of Swiss Textiles

For and on behalf of CITI

Peter Flückiger
Chairman of the Management Board
Swiss Textiles

Chandrima Chatterjee
Secretary General
Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI)