



PRESS RELEASE

Sustainability – the core of Esprit's strategy

100% more sustainable cotton by 2021

(4 December 2019, Ratingen) Esprit's sustainability report is out. It details how Esprit is helping to co-create a new business model that fosters a circular fashion economy: where waste is eliminated, people are respected, natural resources are recycled, and our planet is revitalized. Sustainability is part of Esprit's DNA and is at the core of the company's strategy.

This year's sustainability report highlights Esprit's long-standing industry collaborations on topics like worker's rights, the elimination of hazardous chemicals and climate change. In 2012, Esprit made the commitment to eliminate the discharge of hazardous chemicals in their supply chain by 2020. We have made a big effort to reach this target, by expanding our wastewater testing program and conducting environmental audits at fabric mills. Additionally, the company had a strong focus on replacing conventional synthetics with more sustainable alternatives.

Bold targets lie ahead. The company seeks to reach 100% more sustainable cotton by 2021. This means accelerating the use of organic cotton sourced from farmers that don't use pesticides or synthetic fertilizers. It also means incorporating even more recycled cotton that comes from cutting scraps from production which reduces waste and landfills and sourcing Better Cotton, using less pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.

Impressive progress has been made. Already, more than 50% of the cotton in Esprit garments is more sustainable. Almost 70% of wet process mills conduct wastewater testing to check for excessive chemical use. Additionally, Esprit's is proud to be ranked the second most transparent fashion company globally within the Fashion Revolution Transparency Index 2019.

Social Sustainability plays an important role. Esprit has a team in their key sourcing countries which conduct audits to ensure that factories align with the company's Supplier Code of Conduct. Additionally, all of Esprit's direct suppliers in India and Bangladesh have set targets to increase the number of female line supervisors.

"We are convinced that we will transform our business and continue to demonstrate leadership in the fashion industry," says Anders Kristiansen, Esprit Group CEO.

Esprit celebrates its achievements and continues to push for change and minimize the impact the sector has on the planet.

Download the full report [here](#).

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About ESPRIT

Fueled by the vision of essential positivity, Esprit was founded in California by couple Susie and Doug Tompkins in 1968. Inspired by the revolutionary spirit of the 60s the brand developed a clear philosophy – always celebrating real people and togetherness, in line with the brand's promise: “We want to make you feel good to look good”. The success story of Esprit is based on two pillars: Delivering joy every day through laid-back tailored, high quality essentials and carefully selected fashion-forward pieces while staying true to its core values of sustainability, equality and freedom of choice. Example: In the early 90ies, long before "Eco Fashion" became fashionable, Esprit debuted its first “ecollection” made of 100% organic cotton and featured its own team instead of models in in honor of their “Real People Campaign.”

Keeping this spirit alive since day one, today Esprit has a presence in 40 countries around the globe. Esprit's headquarters are located in Germany and Hong Kong, where the brand has been listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange since 1993.

Esprit – Keeping it easy, comfortable and looking great. Every day. Already hooked? Find out more at www.esprit.com