



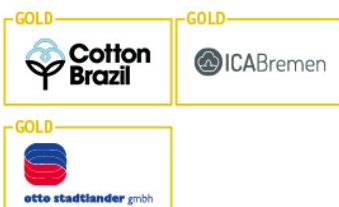
37th International Cotton Conference Bremen, 20-22 March 2024

EU Policy Raises Many Questions

Bremen, 07 March 2024: The Bremen Cotton Exchange and Fibre Institute Bremen invite you to their 37th International Cotton Conference in Bremen from 20 to 22 March. Up to 400 visitors from 40 countries along the entire cotton supply chain are expected. Keynote speeches at the start of each conference day will get visitors tuned into a range of topics. We have put together an impressive team of speakers for you.

More pressing than ever, one of the key topics this year is the discussion on the impact of political guidelines from the European Union. Important questions in relation to this: What are the consequences of the 'Green Deal' for competitiveness in the industry? What is the impact of the planned supply chain act for more transparency and the resulting reporting requirements? They entail a great deal of bureaucracy for companies. How effective are these measures in the first place?

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European legislation and the global cotton industry in keynotes



Veronica Bates Kassatly

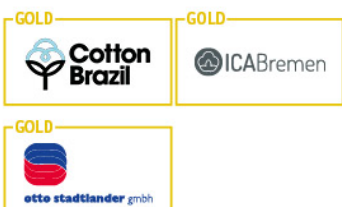
On **Wednesday, 20 March, Veronica Bates Kassatly** will touch on an EU topic being introduced to the industry – the ESPR, or Ecodesign Regulation for short. Bates Kassatly will also present the findings of a study sponsored by the Australian Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CDRC). The question is: does the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) align with the desired objectives in practice? And are the EU measures also in line with the Sustainability Goals of the United Nations Agenda 2030? We can expect an extremely critical analysis. The economist and former World Bank analyst is now, among other things, a journalist and author in the field of sustainable development.

From 2025 onwards, companies in the European Union will be required to provide standardized sustainability reports (ESRS) as part of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). There are also other national and international regulatory and sociopolitical developments in relation to supply chains, carbon emissions trading, circular economy and other aspects relating to environment, social affairs and governance. These have an impact on investment decisions and their financing. The question is: what can be done within companies to maintain a competitive position in times of major change, whilst fully utilising the potential for change and growth? These questions will be answered



Manuel Hoechemer

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by two recognised experts from the headquarters of Commerzbank AG in Frankfurt. **Manuel Hoechemer** is an expert in the sale of raw materials and advises corporate customers in areas such as agriculture and energy, in particular carbon markets. **Lennert van Mens** is an expert for ESG & Sustainable Finance at Commerzbank AG and advises both the Commerzbank internally and its key accounts externally on strategic issues and the financing of sustainable growth.



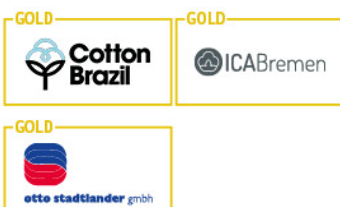
Lennert van Mens

Cotton economy – an expertise



Colin Iles

Last but not least, the first session will be kicked off by **Colin Iles**, Executive Manager, Marketing Cotton & Sugar at the international raw materials group, Glencore/Viterra in Rotterdam. Iles will look at current and future challenges for the cotton textile industry from a global perspective. Shifts in the balance of political power, wars and current conflicts have a direct impact on the composition of the cotton on offer. They interrupt supply chains, e.g. in the area of freight, causing a significant increase to procurement costs. His lecture about developments on the global raw material markets will highlight the problems that will determine the market in the future.





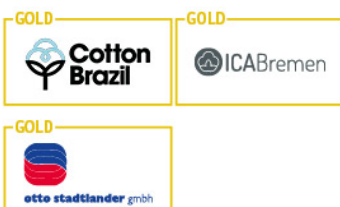
Nicolas Rubio

Nicolas Rubio's lecture on **Thursday, 21 March** is expected to be particularly exciting. As Agricultural Counselor at the US Embassy in Berlin, Rubio advises US companies on how to set up business contacts in Germany and the EU. Due to his work for the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the US Department of Agriculture, he is keen to observe the current agricultural policies in the European Union. Expect him to analyse and assess the EU developments from an American perspective. His views on the Green Deal adopted by the EU are sure to be of interest.



Hubertus Lohner

‘Decarbonisation’ with the aim of achieving carbon neutrality has long been a buzzword for the development that has been observed for many years in various sectors of the export-oriented EU economy. This is also driven by the global climate debate with political pressure for change. **Hubertus Lohner**, member of the site management team for aircraft manufacturer Airbus Operations in Bremen and head of the ECOMAT research and technology centre, will present a positive example. His lecture will perfectly illustrate how research with certain material applications can contribute to decarbonisation in the mobility sector, in lightweight construction and, in this instance, in aircraft manufacturing. Natural fibres are being used more and more frequently in these applications. He will present the work of ECOMAT in Bremen as well as an overview of its further development. ECOMAT stands for the ‘Center for Eco-efficient



Materials & Technologies'. Here, approximately 500 employees from the fields of industry and science jointly carry out interdisciplinary research under one roof.

Online access to the cotton conference

Delegates who will not be travelling to Bremen and have therefore opted to participate online may follow the conference on the tried and tested online platform. Here, all participants will have access to every conference session, break-out session, and poster presentation. Those attending the conference in person will also be able to watch the sessions online and use the variety of networking tools available.

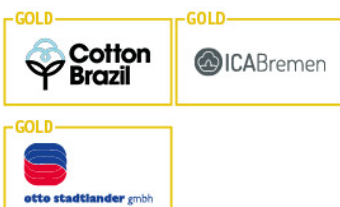
The Bremen Cotton Exchange team will provide detailed information about other programme topics at the International Cotton Conference in further press releases in the run-up to the conference. All information is regularly updated and can be found on the conference website at www.cotton-conference-bremen.de.

Registration is open

Participants can register easily at any time online at <https://cotton-conference-bremen.de/registration/>

Invitation to the press:

Naturally, we invite any interested media representatives to visit the 37th International Cotton Conference Bremen – either in person or online. Please get in touch with our press contact for accreditation. We will also be happy to assist you with selecting suitable discussion and interview partners. We welcome any form of reporting about the conference.



We are available for any further questions and interviews. Media representatives can contact us directly here:

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About the Bremen Cotton Exchange

- Founded in 1872 to strengthen the interests of the cotton trade and consumption in Germany, the Bremen Cotton Exchange has now been in the cotton business for more than 150 years. As an international court of arbitration, the Bremen Cotton Exchange always stands for neutrality.
- We offer various services to our members. Clear and neutral data and analyses are a part of this.
- As the ICA Bremen, together with the International Cotton Association in Liverpool and in cooperation with the Fibre Institute Bremen, we provide the International Quality Testing and Research Centre in Bremen. The Hanseatic city has now become the international centre for cotton testing and research, quality training and certification.
- We represent our members in all the important international bodies in the cotton world.

About the Fibre Institute Bremen e. V. (FIBRE)

- In its more than 60-years history, the Institute has developed from a cotton testing laboratory into a successful research institute in the fields of future-oriented fibres, technical textiles and fibre composites at the University of Bremen. It deals with basic scientific and application-oriented questions along the entire process chain from fibre production to the manufacturing of fibre composite components and more for the aircraft industry.
- FIBRE’s central international importance in cotton is shown by its work on the international harmonisation of cotton testing [e.g., round tests in cooperation with the ICAC and USDA-AMS], its work in central committees [ICAC Committee on Standardised Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC), ITMF Cotton Testing.

