

VENICE SUSTAINABLE FASHION FORUM

PRESS RELEASE



VENICE SUSTAINABLE FASHION FORUM 2025: SHARED SOLUTIONS FOR A FASHION INDUSTRY THAT UNITES ETHICS, INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS

Venice, October 24, 2025 – The fourth edition of the Venice Sustainable Fashion Forum has concluded today. The summit, dedicated to the sustainable transition of the fashion supply chain, is promoted by Confindustria Moda, The European House – Ambrosetti (TEHA), and Confindustria Veneto Est – Metropolitan Area of Venice, Padua, Rovigo, and Treviso. The event took place in Venice on October 23 and 24, at the Giorgio Cini Foundation on the Island of San Giorgio.

The second day, October 24th

The second day of the Venice Sustainable Fashion Forum 2025 (October 24) was dedicated to the evolution of consumer dynamics and new models of sustainable growth. **Enrico Giovannini** (Scientific Director, ASviS) opened the session with a reflection on how sustainability can become the true “compass” for economic and social development, emphasizing the importance of clear indicators, the role of businesses, and collaboration among institutions, companies, and citizens in the lead-up to 2030. In the following panel, **Luca Mari** (Carlo Cattaneo University – LIUC) and **Jonathan Hall** (Kantar) analyzed emerging consumer behaviors, highlighting the impact of artificial intelligence and geopolitical tensions on purchasing decisions, as well as the growing importance of transparency and the circular economy in brand strategies. The morning continued with conversations featuring **Javier Goyeneche** (Ecoalf) and **Andrea Rosso** (OTB), who shared the experiences of two emblematic companies committed to promoting business models based on durability, awareness, and innovation.

The panel “The Future of Tradition through Innovative Solutions” explored the dialogue between tradition and innovation through the contributions of **Stefano Carosio** (STAM), **Cristina Catani** (Lyria), **Fabio Menichini** (Brembo Solutions), **Shahriare Mahmood** (Spinnova), and **Edoardo Iannuzzi** (ACBC), who presented new technological and design approaches for a more sustainable and competitive manufacturing sector. The day concluded with institutional remarks by **Laura D’Aprile** (Head of Department for Ecological Transition and Green Investments, MASE), focused on the evolution of the regulatory framework. The final session, “Road to 2030,” featured **Flavio Sciuccati** (The European House – Ambrosetti), **Luca Sburlati** (President, Confindustria Moda), and **Walter Bertin** (Vice President for Environmental Transition and ESG, Confindustria Veneto Est), who outlined priorities and recommendations for a sustainable, fair, and effective transition of the Italian fashion system.

The Six Proposals from the “Just Fashion Transition 2025” Study

During the Forum, **six key recommendations** from the *Just Fashion Transition 2025* study were presented. These proposals are addressed to institutions and supply chain stakeholders to support a just, effective, and competitive transformation by 2030.

For institutions

1. Foster Innovation – Increase resources dedicated to the development of new solutions by creating a single capital market and simplifying access to financing for SMEs.
2. Reward Sustainability Leaders – Provide incentives for companies, banks, and consumers that adopt sustainable behaviors, starting with efforts to reduce overconsumption.

For Supply Chains Companies

3. Be Pragmatic – Focus on a limited number of areas where technology enables improvements in sustainability performance while also delivering short-term margins.
4. Lead the Supply Chain – Set the example, especially as large lead firms, through collaboration, investment, and the sharing of best practices.

For Both Institutions & Supply Chain Companies

5. Collaborate to Compete – Promote the creation of business groups and consortia to increase scale and investment potential.
6. Measure and Promote – Quantify the industry's contribution to European competitiveness, propose concrete actions, and enhance the media impact of communicating achieved results.

STATEMENTS

Luca Sburlati, President, Confindustria Moda: *"A clear and shared message is emerging from Venice: sustainability is not a cost — it is our industrial identity and the true engine of Made in Italy's competitiveness. Today, the Italian fashion sector has both the responsibility and the opportunity to lead the transition toward a new production model based on innovation, legality, and respect for people and the environment. Confindustria Moda is working, together with institutions and businesses, on the development of a National Strategic Plan for Fashion that integrates sustainability, digitalization, and industrial research — enhancing the excellence of our supply chain and creating the conditions for solid, cohesive, and international growth. Collaboration between major fashion houses, SMEs, and artisanal workshops — combined with technology transfer and digital traceability — is the key to transforming Italian fashion into a European laboratory for sustainable innovation. From Venice, we renew our call: let's work together for a stronger, cleaner, and fairer industry — one where new generations can find space to express their talent and vision. The future of Italian fashion will be sustainable, competitive, and united — or it won't be at all."*

Flavio Sciuccati, Partner & Director Global Fashion Unit The European House – Ambrosetti: *"With its fourth edition, the Venice Sustainable Fashion Forum takes another step forward in the "vision of the future" we embraced as the TEHA Group when, in 2021, we conceived and launched this initiative to benefit the fashion industry — not only for our country, but for Europe as a whole. The Forum has now established itself as a key reference point and platform for dialogue within the Fashion & Luxury ecosystem: a space where projects are born and strengthened, capable of reinforcing and cementing the future competitiveness of the fashion system. Responsibility, transparency, and competitiveness emerged as the core values of these two days. We witnessed a shared and constructive momentum toward finding concrete solutions: new alliances, dedicated financial instruments, shared measurement and reporting frameworks, and the use of innovative technologies. What is needed now is speed and unity in harmonizing rules and language across all supply chains, promoting aggregation among companies to strengthen innovation and investment capacity, and providing tangible support — credit, skills, tools — to SMEs. Accelerating regulatory transition is also essential to ensure legal certainty and stability for businesses. It is equally crucial to rebalance economic value across the value chain, recognizing the contribution of every link and ensuring a fairer distribution of the value generated. Only through systemic collaboration among all actors in the fashion ecosystem — brands, manufacturers, institutions, and finance — can Italian fashion be transformed into a model of integrated sustainability, capable of generating shared and lasting value."*

Walter Bertin, Vice President for Environmental Transition and ESG, Confindustria Veneto Est: *"Sustainability is now an integral part of our entrepreneurial culture and involves the entire fashion supply chain — from large companies to small artisanal businesses that represent the productive soul of our districts and of Made in Italy. In Veneto, and especially in Eastern Veneto, fashion is part of a manufacturing ecosystem that has successfully combined tradition, innovation, and responsibility, generating value through product excellence and human expertise. The challenge we are launching today from Venice is to develop concrete and shared pathways, with clear and measurable goals, capable of guiding even small enterprises through the transition toward a new model of competitiveness. This Forum has been a valuable moment of dialogue and shared vision. Confindustria Veneto Est will continue working on the proposals that emerged, including through the Sustainability Group and other initiatives in the coming months. For us, sustainability means collaboration, innovation, and responsible growth — the foundations on which to build the competitive and cohesive future of our companies and of the entire fashion supply chain."*

Sustainability as a Strategic Lever

Completing the picture that emerged from the Summit were also the voices of companies that form the backbone of the fashion supply chain. Their comments highlight how sustainability is a strategic lever that requires innovation, skills, and investment to generate lasting value. Technology becomes a key tool in transforming a sustainable vision into tangible and competitive results. Below are the voices of the companies:

Luigi Fontanesi, Partner, Greenberg Traurig: *"Technological innovation is the key to turning sustainability from an abstract goal into an industrial reality — a fact reaffirmed during this fourth edition of the VSFF. Investing in research, development, technology, and even startups means building a competitive future where progress is also responsible. But for innovation to generate long-term value, it must be protected: it is the law that transforms it into a true business asset, capable of attracting investment, building stakeholder trust, and contributing concretely to the sustainable transition."*

Corrado Brondi, Founder and Chairman, Give Back Beauty: *“As Diamond Sponsor of the Venice Sustainable Fashion Forum 2025, Give Back Beauty promotes a balanced and transparent value creation model in the beauty sector — one where sustainability, performance, and inclusion work in harmony as competitive advantages, rather than as trade-offs or compliance constraints. Since its founding, GBB has built global beauty brands that combine economic performance with reduced environmental impact and greater social responsibility across the value chain, placing respect and trust at the heart of every activity. ‘Harmonizing Values’ is, for the company, a pragmatic approach that ensures the joint evolution of price, performance, brand purpose, transparency, and consumer trust”*

Annalisa Areni, Head of Client Strategies, Unicredit: *“When sustainability becomes the backbone of a company — permeating all business functions — it transforms into a competitive lever capable of generating innovation, growth, and collective well-being. Our mission is to help businesses embrace this vision and translate it into concrete and lasting results. The agreement recently signed with Confindustria Moda moves precisely in this direction.”*

Pietro Bertelli Head of Corporate Sustainability Solutions, Alperia: *“The contributions at the fourth edition of the VSFF, organized by Confindustria Moda, Confindustria Veneto Est, and TEHA, stood out for their quality and inspiration, with a concrete and pragmatic approach to the transition toward a more sustainable model. Sustainability requires skills and investment. Alperia is ready to provide both companies in the fashion sector, supporting them through this transformation.”*

Sara Busato, Head of Corporate Communication & Sustainability, D.B. Group: *“When we talk about Harmonizing Values, logistics becomes the space where the promise of sustainability meets the reality of global flows — increasingly complex, fragmented, and volatile. Sustainable logistics is a strategic capability: the ability to transform complexity and variability into efficiency, reliability, and long-term brand value.”*

The official hashtags for the Forum are: #VeniceSFF #VSFF25

The Venice Sustainable Fashion Forum is realized with the contribution of the Venice Rovigo Chamber of Commerce and numerous players across the extended sector: Alperia, Give Back Beauty, Greenberg Traurig, UniCredit, Unisalute, D.B. Group, Acimit, Bemberg™ by Asahi Kasei Fiber Italia, Centrocot, Confindustria Moda Linen Section, Guess Europe, Fondazione Leaf & Consorzio Physis, Lyria, Pattern Group, ACBC and Surge.

Confindustria Moda is one of the largest representative organizations for textile and fashion manufacturers in the Western world. The Federation represents a sector with nearly 400,000 employees and over 38,500 companies, a fundamental component of Italy's and Europe's economic and manufacturing fabric. It protects and promotes the sector's interests and, exclusively, represents the entire supply chain nationally and internationally in relations with institutions, public administrations, and economic, political, trade union and social organizations. It is the national category federation—strongly integrated with local territories—affiliated with Confindustria and the most representative founding member of EURATEX, the European Apparel and Textile Confederation.

TEHA Group, a subsidiary of **The European House – Ambrosetti**, employs about 330 people and has been active since 1965, growing significantly through the contribution of many Partners, with numerous activities in Italy, Europe and worldwide. The Group is widely present across Italy with several foreign offices and partnerships. Its core strength is supporting companies in the integrated and synergistic management of four critical value-generation dynamics: Seeing, Designing, Implementing and Enhancing. Each year, TEHA serves around 1,500 clients, delivering 400+ strategic studies and scenarios for national and European institutions and companies, and approximately 120 projects for family businesses. It involves about 3,500 experts annually across 850 events, supporting over 18,000 managers. Since 2013, TEHA Group has been ranked among “Best Private Think Tanks”—#1 in Italy, #4 in the EU, and among the most respected independent think tanks globally out of 11,175 (source: *Global Go To Think Tanks Report*, University of Pennsylvania). TEHA Group has also been recognized by the Top Employers Institute as one of Italy's Top Employer 2025 organizations. More information: www.ambrosetti.eu

Confindustria Veneto Est (CVE) is the association of industrial and innovative service companies operating across the metropolitan area of Venice, Padua, Rovigo and Treviso. By size and representation, it is the second-largest association within the Confindustria system, with 5,114 companies producing goods and services across 21 sectors and over 281,000 employees. It operates in a key region for Italian enterprise and the national economy—advanced manufacturing with international outlook, technological innovation and tourism—with an aggregate GDP of €102.8bn, 1.3m employees (including 450k in industry) and €37.2bn in exports. CVE represents members' interests before local, national and international institutions; public administrations; economic and social organizations; schools, universities and research; and finance—supporting industrial policy at regional, national and EU levels. With 150 professionals and dedicated business units, it offers integrated specialist services across all business areas, supporting SMEs and large companies through the green and digital transitions and ESG initiatives, for territorial development and attractiveness. Since 2022 it has organized the annual Sustainability Week and is gender-equality certified.

Press contacts

CONFINDUSTRA MODA

Cristina Fava +39 335628187
crisfava@bravocomunicazione.com
comunicazionecm@confindustriamoda.it

TEHA Group

Fabiola Gnocchi +39 3497510840
fabiola.gnocchi@ambrosetti.eu

Confindustria Veneto Est

Sandro Sanseverinati +39 3483403738
s.sanseverinati@confindustriavenest.it
stampa@confindustriavenest.it