

PRESS RELEASE

“SHAPING TOMORROW”: IN VENICE, SUPPLY CHAINS, SKILLS AND INNOVATION SHAPE THE FUTURE OF FASHION

The fifth edition of the Venice Sustainable Fashion Forum, promoted by Confindustria Moda and Confindustria Veneto Est, takes place on November 5th and 6th.

Supply chain legality and transparency, human capital, artificial intelligence, new materials, circularity and competitiveness at the heart of a dialogue that has become a joint initiative across the Confindustria network.

Milan, 8 October 2026 – How can the integrity of Italy's fashion supply chain be safeguarded while supporting its evolution amid profound technological, climate, regulatory and geopolitical change?

This is the challenge at the heart of the fifth edition of the Venice Sustainable Fashion Forum, entitled “Shaping Tomorrow”, taking place on 5 and 6 November 2026 at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini on the island of San Giorgio in Venice.

Promoted by Confindustria Moda and Confindustria Veneto Est, with TEHA Group as scientific advisor, this year's Forum takes on an even broader scope as a joint initiative across the Confindustria network. It directly involves representatives of sectors linked to fashion and accessories — leather goods, footwear and eyewear — to broaden its perspective and integrate these supply chains into a wider vision and growth strategy. The event will bring together businesses, institutions, experts and leading innovators to discuss the conditions needed to build tomorrow's fashion supply chain today.

The Forum was presented today in Milan by **Luca Sburlati**, President of Confindustria Moda, **Andrea Favaretto Rubelli**, Vice President of the Fashion System Group at Confindustria Veneto Est, and **Andrea Crespi**, Vice President of Confindustria Moda responsible for ESG, Sustainability, Technologies and Innovation, with a contribution from **Matteo Rimini**, TEHA Group, Professional.

The title, **“Shaping Tomorrow”**, reflects a simple idea: the future of the supply chain cannot be awaited; it must be built today by steering the transformations already under way.

The first is technological: artificial intelligence is entering industrial processes, from design and virtual prototyping to production optimisation, supply chain management and waste reduction. This change can improve productivity and competitiveness, but requires investment and new skills.

The second concerns sustainability and circularity: new materials, innovative and bio-based fibres, ecodesign, recycling and extended producer responsibility are redefining products and processes. Meanwhile, the technological expertise of Italy's textile supply chain is opening up new opportunities in high-value sectors such as aerospace, defence, healthcare and the marine industry.

The third transformation directly affects supply chain integrity. Legality, transparency, due diligence, traceability and proper implementation of contracts are becoming essential conditions for protecting businesses and workers and preserving the reputation and industrial value of Made in Italy.

People remain at the heart of this process. Continuous training, attracting young talent, transferring skills and integrating people with new technologies will be crucial to retaining in Italy the manufacturing know-how that is one of Italian fashion's main competitive advantages.

The presentation also offered a preview of TEHA Group's 2026 "Just Fashion Transition Study", the Observatory that has been analysing the sustainable transition of Europe's main fashion supply chains for five years.

Among the findings, the number of cleantech solutions available to Europe's fashion industry — clean technologies that reduce environmental impact and improve business competitiveness — has reached 234, compared with the 91 identified in 2025; 75% are already commercially available. However, the growing availability of innovative technologies is matched by difficulties in finding the necessary skills: more than 55% of the professional roles sought in textiles, clothing and footwear are hard to fill, mainly because of a structural shortage of candidates.

The Forum will close with "Road to 2035", a session looking beyond current developments to the sector's future. It will bring together the outcomes of the discussions and turn them into recommendations for policymakers, commitments and future activities, with a call to action for stakeholders across the fashion and lifestyle ecosystem.

The aim is to take away from the Forum not only an analysis of ongoing transformations, but also a shared industrial vision for Italian and European fashion over the next decade.

STATEMENTS

"The Venice Sustainable Fashion Forum has become an event for the entire industry and, as such, conveys a strong industrial policy message. The sustainability of Italian fashion as a whole means, first and foremost, the sustainability of its entire ecosystem: we must therefore protect a unique combination of businesses, brands, regions, skills and people, while supporting it through change. Legality, innovation, artificial intelligence, human capital and circularity are not separate chapters: they are parts of the same strategy to strengthen the competitiveness of an industry that is so important to our country. We cannot simply wait for the future: we must build it today, enabling companies to invest and continue manufacturing in Italy and Europe," says **Luca Sburlati, President of Confindustria Moda**.

Paola Carron, President of Confindustria Veneto Est, says: "Venice and Veneto are the natural home of the Forum, the cradle of age-old manufacturing know-how and, at the same time, symbols of innovation and resilience. Despite geopolitical and market uncertainty, the fashion supply chain remains one of the most representative sectors of Made in Italy, with Italian exports accounting for 7% of total global demand. This strength continues to define Veneto's industrial identity, not only through its export figures (€14 billion), but also through the distinctive quality, creativity and expertise of its industrial districts, brands and regions. Today, more than ever, we need to recognise the strategic role of the entire fashion ecosystem, alongside a targeted industrial policy that supports businesses through transformation, promoting innovation and human capital, sustainability, competitiveness, reciprocity in rules and legality. This is the united message we will send forcefully from Venice to national and European institutions."

VENICE SUSTAINABLE FASHION FORUM



The programme for the two days, currently being finalised, will be available shortly at <https://venicesustainablefashionforum.it>

The Venice Sustainable Fashion Forum is organised with the support of the Venice Rovigo Chamber of Commerce and numerous organisations connected to the sector: Anfao, Assocalzaturifici, Assopellettieri, Chargeurs PCC Italy, Confindustria Accessori Moda, Confindustria Moda - Sezione Lino, Confindustria Moda - Sezione Texclubtec, Deloitte, Fondazione del Tessile Italiano, Holding Moda, Hyosung Europe, Ideabiella, Kering, Lyria, M.C.G. - Management Consultance Group, Nctm Studio Legale, Nice Footwear, Pattern, RIR Face Design, Umana, UniCredit, UniSalute.

Confindustria Moda is one of the world's largest organisations representing textile and fashion manufacturers in the Western world. The Federation represents a sector with just under 400,000 employees and more than 38,500 companies, forming a vital part of Italy's and Europe's economic and manufacturing fabric. It protects and promotes the interests of the sector and its members, exclusively representing the entire supply chain nationally and internationally in dealings with institutions, public administrations, economic, political, trade union and social organisations. As the national industry federation, it combines sectoral and territorial representation, with a strong focus on integration with local communities. It is a member of Confindustria and the most representative founding member of Euratex, the European Apparel and Textile Confederation.

Confindustria Veneto Est (CVE) is the association of industrial and innovative service companies operating in the Venice, Padua, Rovigo and Treviso metropolitan area. In size and representation, it is the second-largest association in the Confindustria network, with 5,155 companies producing goods and services across 21 sectors and around 280,000 employees. It operates in a key region for Italian enterprise and the economy, known for advanced manufacturing, international reach, technological innovation and tourism, with aggregate GDP of €104.4 billion, 1.115 million people in employment, including 420,000 in industry, and exports worth €37 billion. It represents and protects its members' interests in dealings with local, national and international institutions, public administrations, economic and social organisations, schools, universities, research bodies and the financial sector, advocating regional, national and European industrial policies that support competitiveness. Through its 150 professionals and business units, it offers specialist, integrated services and advice across all areas of business activity. It supports small, medium-sized and large companies and supply chains in tackling the green and digital transitions and ESG challenges, fostering the region's development and attractiveness. Since 2022, it has organised the annual "Sustainability Week". It holds gender equality certification.

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