

ITMF Conference Sets the Tone as Global Tariff Disruptions Redefine Textile Industry Outlook

By Rakesh Kumar & Mohit Sharma

YOGYAKARTA, OCT. 27—

Escalating reciprocal tariffs imposed by major economies are reshaping global textile trade dynamics, disrupting supply chains and creating uncertainty for manufacturers and exporters across key markets. This assertion came as part of the opening address delivered by Dr. K. V. Srinivasan, President, The International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF), at the ITMF Conference 2025 held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia last week.

Dr. Srinivasan said these tariffs are driving deep structural shifts rather than temporary disturbances, noting that the weakening of the multilateral trading system and the rise of fragmented bilateral agreements are compelling textile companies to reassess sourcing models, pricing strategies and long-term investment decisions. “The sweeping reciprocal tariffs introduced by the Trump administration have shaken supply chains worldwide including those in the textile and apparel sector,” he stated.

The ITMF President introduced the conference theme, “Navigating Uncertainty & Adopting Technology – Pathways to Sustainable Strength in the Textile and Apparel Industry,” emphasising that future competitiveness will increasingly depend on how effectively companies adapt to policy shifts, integrate sustainability imperatives and invest in technology to strengthen operational resilience.

Referring to insights from the ITMF Global Textile Industry Survey, Dr. Srinivasan noted that the textile industry has experienced a prolonged period of subdued performance from 2022 to 2024, marked by weak demand, declining orders and margin pressure across several key markets. While slight improvements in capacity utilisation have been observed entering 2025, the survey indicates that overall sentiment remains cautious due to continued market volatility and tariff exposure, with many companies choosing to defer capital expenditure until greater clarity emerges.

Dr. Srinivasan said these findings point to the need for strategic



recalibration across the global value chain. Sessions at the conference are therefore focusing on fibre market trends, decarbonisation pathways, artificial intelligence in manufacturing and the streamlining of compliance requirements to reduce cost burdens and improve operational efficiencies.

In his concluding remarks, the ITMF President stated that the textile industry is now at an inflection point, where external pressures must be met with long-term adaptation and coordinated industry action. The ITMF Conference 2025, organised in partnership with the International Apparel Federation, brought together leading stakeholders to analyse emerging risks and define pathways for sustained competitiveness.

CEMATEX strengthens EU representation and advocacy for European textile m/c sector

MUMBAI, OCT. 27—

CEMATEX, the European Committee of Textile Machinery Manufacturers, has reinforced its role as the voice of the EU textile machinery industry by enhancing its presence and engagement with EU institutions and stakeholders.

According to Mr Alex Zucchi, President of CEMATEX, the organisation is now officially registered in the EU Transparency Register. He said “With this registration, the association is in a leading position to represent the European textile machinery industry in dialogue with EU legislators and to actively contribute to consultations on upcoming legislative initiatives”.

As part of this engagement,

CEMATEX has participated in the EU Sustainable Textiles Transition Pathway, pledging its support for the transition to a more sustainable European textile ecosystem.

As the legislation landscape evolves in support of the upcoming EU textile strategy, CEMATEX is actively monitoring key EU legislative initiatives. Among them are the Eco-Design Regulation (Textile Delegated Act), Waste Framework Directive implementation across EU member states, Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (for apparel), and market surveillance and customs reform, including the proposal for a central market surveillance agency.

Monforts and its partners Archroma and BW Converting are setting new standards in resource efficient and cost-effective finishing of fabrics

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During a recent webinar organised by Germany’s VDMA textile machinery association, specialists from the three companies provided details of the range of new energy-saving options that is now available to mills.

In particular, BW Converting’s Baldwin TexCoat G4 precision spray technology – in combination with advanced Archroma finishing formulations and Monforts MONTEX stenters and MONFORTEX shrinking ranges and related technologies – is pushing the envelope in new standards for sustainable and long-lasting clean productivity.

FUNCTIONALITY

Michael Schuhmann, Global Marketing Finishing at Archroma Textile Effects, explained that typical key functions provided in textile finishing include sweat and odor control, water repellence and UV resistance. Softeners are primarily applied to make fabrics more comfortable while other finishes provide reduced crease formation for easy-care properties. The traditional padding or exhaust techniques for applying these finishes require huge volumes of water and energy intensive drying.

Spray application, by contrast, requires much less water due to drastically reduced ‘pick up’ – the amount of liquid that a fabric absorbs and retains, determining how much finishing agent remains in the fabric. This also enables significantly faster drying, making process speeds of up to 100 metres per minute possible, depending on the fabric.

“As the global fashion brands commit to reducing their emissions, the textile processing industry must respond by adopting safer chemistries with resource-saving processes such as spray application,” Schuhmann said.

PRECISION

Rick Stanford, Vice President Global Business Development for Textiles at BW Converting, explained that at the core of the Baldwin

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