

WELCOME SPEECH

Good morning everyone,

It's a pleasure to welcome you all to the 2025 AFIRM Supplier Seminar here in Istanbul. We are truly grateful for your presence and for your shared commitment to advancing chemical management in the textile industry.

All of us gathered here today share a common responsibility — and a commitment — to ensure that the substances and materials used in our production processes are safe and sustainable. Together, we seek to identify and develop products and practices with a lower impact, helping us move forward in our collective commitment to protecting biodiversity and natural resources.

Chemical management is a key pillar of this effort — an area of continuous work where we strive to deepen our understanding of the substances used in our industry, and to enhance the safety of their use throughout our supply chains.

From the earliest stages of production, collaboration and alignment are essential. Clear, shared standards — such as restricted substance lists (RSLs) — help us move forward together, ensuring consistency and transparency throughout the supply chain.

The AFIRM Group's RSL provides a common reference that supports this alignment. It promotes a harmonized approach to chemical requirements, making it easier for all of us — brands, manufacturers, and suppliers — to work toward safer and more sustainable products.

Throughout the day, we'll have the opportunity to discuss key topics such as the AFIRM RSL, regulatory developments, testing strategies, and practical experiences from across the supply chain. These discussions are a valuable space to exchange knowledge, learn from one another, and identify opportunities for continuous improvement.

We are also delighted to welcome our distinguished guest, **Şeyma Gül Çatal**, representative of the **Ministry of Trade**, who will share insights on product monitoring at Turkish borders — a subject of great relevance for our collective work.

We hope this seminar fosters open dialogue and collaboration. By sharing experiences and working together, we can continue to build a more responsible and transparent supply chain for the future.

Thank you very much for being here, and I wish you all a productive and inspiring day ahead.

