AQUAFIL AND SUSTAINABILITY

2020
Letter from the President
It is said that hard times create strong men, and strong men create good times. I like to think that the same principle applies to sustainability: initial difficulties always serve as a stimulus for growth, forging a path that is self-sustaining thanks to solid principles.

2020 was a challenging year in many ways. The whole world found itself facing a situation unprecedented in modern times, to which we have had to react with promptness, responsibility and a sense of community.

Aquafil implemented best practices to ensure the safety of those who work in our production sites and supported local communities severely affected by an unexpected and aggressive pandemic. Thanks to timely and targeted actions, we have been able to keep all of our facilities open, even in the darkest moments.

I wish to underline that we have tried to make the most of these strange times: continuing to carry out ambitious projects to make our supply chains - as well as products - increasingly circular and environmentally friendly.

Recycling copper extracted from fishing nets, studying how to produce nylon from plant-based materials, numerous projects launched upstream and downstream of our supply chain in collaboration with suppliers and customers, are just some of the tangible examples of a commitment that endures and which, even in the most difficult moments, continues to bear wonderful fruits.

Giulio Bonazzi
Founded in Arco in 1965, Aquafil Group has become a north star in Italy and worldwide for the production of synthetic fibers, and Nylon 6 in particular. The Group’s uniqueness lies in the ability to develop highly innovative products with a low environmental impact, forging a path of sustainability for the entire industry.

2020
the numbers

11 Certified facilities
ISO 9001 (Quality)

9 Certified facilities
ISO 14001 (Environment)

6 Certified facilities
ISO 45001 (Safety)

2 Certified facilities
ISO 50001 (Energy)

4 Certified companies
SA 8000 (Social Responsibility)

Product areas

Yarn for apparel
Polyamide 6 polymers

Yarn for textile flooring
17 Facilities
7 Countries
3 Continents

95% Electricity from renewable sources out of the Group’s total consumption

2,650 Employees worldwide
14,179 Training hours

438,9 € million direct economic value generated

-59% Total greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2016
Aquafil has a very specific idea of sustainability: it is not a result to achieve but a way of thinking and being, a guiding principle to be followed constantly. In fact, for many years the Group has integrated the concepts of sustainability and circular economy into its values and business strategy, developing and promoting projects, technologies and skills that reflect them. Key aspects of the Group’s sustainability policy are valuing waste, improving process efficiency, collaborating with suppliers and supporting the development of local communities.

1990
Recovery of the “lactamic waters” produced during the polymerization process

2000
Recovery of waste to make technopolymers

2008
Birth of the “Energy & Recycling” operating unit which develops and promotes projects, technologies and skills to improve the environmental performance of products and processes

2010
 Birth of the ECONYL® Regeneration System, a production model that allows Aquafil to obtain raw materials regenerated from recycled nylon waste

2011

Much has been done, much still needs to be done.
2013
Founded “The Healthy Seas - A Journey from Waste to Wear” initiative aimed at reducing solid waste (fishing nets) abandoned at sea by recovering and recycling them.

2015
Launch of the ECONYL® Qualified initiative for the development of an environmental qualification protocol for suppliers. The Group works with its suppliers to make the ECONYL® supply chain even more sustainable.

2018
Launch of the European research project EFFECTIVE, which aims to develop nylon, starting from renewable raw materials.

2019
Aquafi S.p.A. obtains the SA 8000 certification, which guarantees respect for the rights of the Group’s workers and those who operate in the supply chain.

2020
The new company Aquafil Carpet Recycling LLC is founded in the United States, dedicated to the recovery of post-consumer rugs and carpets. These products are then sent to the subsequent processing stages for the production of new ECONYL® yarn.

2013
Published the first EPD of the ECONYL® polymer.
Rethinking products in a circular perspective
Innovating products to make them increasingly circular, giving new life to waste materials, in an infinite cycle

Protecting the environment
Producing consciously and responsibly, pursuing continuous improvement and excellence in every aspect

Attention to the well-being of people
People who, with commitment and passion, are the foundation of the Group

Shared responsibility along the supply chain
Collaborate with suppliers and customers to bring environmental change and sustainability in the entire sector

Support local communities
Grow in harmony with local communities, promoting a prosperous and respectful development of their territory

THE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY: 
THE ECO PLEDGE®
AQUAFIL’S VISION
An increasingly sustainable future

The basis of Aquafil’s daily commitment to excellence and responsible growth are the guidelines of THE ECO PLEDGE® - Aquafil’s path towards full sustainability, which summarizes the Group’s sustainability policy in five “pillars” and identifies areas for improvement. The desire to set up a transparent, effective and lasting path of development has prompted the Group to align its pillars with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations, identifying 12 SDGs through which it can make a significant contribution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUSTAINABILITY PILLARS</th>
<th>IMPROVEMENT AREAS</th>
<th>PROJECTS</th>
<th>SUPPORTED SDGs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RETHINKING PRODUCTS IN A CIRCULAR PERSPECTIVE</td>
<td>• Create new sustainable value chains</td>
<td>• Creation of new recycled materials starting from secondary raw materials obtained from the recycling of aquaculture nets and carpets</td>
<td>![12 SDG logo]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Explore other sustainable value chains</td>
<td>• Biopolymers (Project H2020 Effective)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT</td>
<td>• Invest in energy from renewable sources</td>
<td>• Acquisto di energia elettrica da fonte rinnovabile per tutto il Gruppo Aquafil</td>
<td>![5 SDG logo]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Improve the impacts of production processes</td>
<td>• Aumentare l’efficienza energetica delle linee produttive</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATTENTION TO THE WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE</td>
<td>• Minimize accidents</td>
<td>• Ridurre consumi e scarichi idrici</td>
<td>![1, 2 SDG logo]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Support employee growth</td>
<td>• Certificazione ISO 50001 e 14001</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHARED RESPONSIBILITY ALONG THE SUPPLY CHAIN</td>
<td>• Integrate sustainability in purchasing procedures</td>
<td>• ISO 45001 certification</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Spread the culture of sustainability</td>
<td>• Education projects to foster increased awareness of sustainability among all employees of the Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUPPORT TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES</td>
<td>• Educate on environmental protection</td>
<td>• SA 8000 certification</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Support for local cultural and sports clubs</td>
<td>• ECONYL project® qualified</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Contribution to youth training</td>
<td>• Integrated supplier qualification procedure</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Support for vulnerable categories</td>
<td>• Healthy Seas project</td>
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An increasingly sustainable future
OUR COMMITMENT

Rethinking products from a circular perspective

Give new life to waste materials, enhance them with cutting-edge technologies and search for solutions that prevent waste production. These are the solutions that Aquafil has undertaken to increase the circularity of its production processes. To achieve this, redesigning products while taking into account their entire life cycle becomes necessary, which is why investments in Research and Development and collaborations with external players are fundamental for the Group.

For more information, please refer to the 2020 Group Consolidated Financial Statements, p. 94

The recycling of aquaculture nets

Aquaculture nets, made from Nylon 6, have an antifouling coating in resin and copper oxide which prevents the proliferation of algae and allows them to withstand extreme weather conditions.

Aquafil has developed a dual technology that allows the separation of copper oxide from the nets, allowing the recovery of both Nylon 6 and metallic copper.
Polypropylene enhancement

The Group has patented a new technology which allows the separation of multi-material products such as carpets and rugs, usually composed of Nylon 6, polypropylene, calcium carbonate and glues, in order to obtain a Nylon 6 fraction suitable for the ECONYL® Regeneration system while recovering the polypropylene to give it new life (i.e. the production of outdoor/garden furniture and furnishings).

Bio-caprolactam and bio-based nylon

The Group has invested in the development of an innovative technology which enables the production of caprolactam starting from renewable raw materials of plant-based origin instead of petroleum. To develop the production process, a strategic partnership was sealed with Genomatica, a leading American company in the bio-engineering sector. This collaboration was then extended to all players in the supply chain through H2020 EFFECTIVE, the European project which sees the participation of 12 organizations from 7 countries and aims to demonstrate, on a pre-industrial scale, the production of fibers and film starting from renewable raw materials. To date, around 300kg of bio-caprolactam have been produced which will allow the production of the first batch of bio-based Nylon 6, while developments for other polymers remain ongoing.
Waste: a resource to be valued

The ECONYL® Regeneration system allows Aquafil to produce high quality products from pre- and post-consumer waste, which would otherwise be sent to landfills or discarded in the environment.

ECONYL® Nylon has a lower environmental impact, while maintaining the same qualitative characteristics of primary source nylon.

**FOR EVERY 10,000 TONS OF RAW MATERIAL, WITH ECONYL® WE CAN:**

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<th>Save</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>70,000</strong> Barrels of crude oil</td>
<td><strong>65,100</strong> Tons of CO₂eq emissions</td>
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For more information visit the website www.econyl.com
WHERE DOES THE WASTE USED TO PRODUCE ECONYL® YARN COME FROM?

Old carpets destined to landfills
Aquafil has two carpet recycling plants in the United States, which can each process more than 16 million kg of carpet per year.

The treatment allows all of the different components to be separated and sent for recovery, including Nylon 6, which will be used to produce ECONYL®. Furthermore, the collaboration with Tarkett allows the use of Nylon obtained from the treatment of end-of-use carpet tiles to produce new ECONYL®.

Pre-consumer waste from industrial processes
Pre-consumer waste comes from industrial processes which consist of plastic components, industrial waste and fabric scraps.

Collecting these materials allows the reduction of waste destined for disposal and provides raw material that can be used to produce ECONYL®.

End-of-life products, collected through Take Back programs
Aquafil has structured an international network dedicated to the recovery of end-of-use materials, based on partnerships with institutions, organizations, associations, private and public companies. This system allows the collection of waste for regeneration into ECONYL® yarn.

Examples of this commitment are represented by special projects in collaboration with different brands such as Napapijri, Speedo and Gucci.

Aquaculture and fishing nets and ghost nets
Aquafil collaborates with the fishing industry to recover end-of-use nets from fish farms to obtain Nylon 6 necessary for the production of Econyl®.

In addition, to help clean the oceans, Aquafil promotes the recovery of ghost nets abandoned along the seabed - responsible for the deaths of numerous animals.
OUR COMMITMENT

Protecting the environment

Aquafil has decided to act on several fronts in order to transform its environmental protection commitments into tangible actions: investing in energy from renewable sources, improving the energy efficiency of production processes, reducing water consumption and discharges.

Furthermore the undertaken certification process of ISO 14001 allows the Group to guarantee a reliable management of corporate aspects relating to both the environment and energy.

Constant commitment, concrete results

- **-59%** TOTAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS COMPARED TO 2016

- **95%** ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES OUT OF THE GROUP’S TOTAL CONSUMPTION

For more information, see the Group Consolidated Financial Statements 2020, p. 80
A virtuous path

The Group has managed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions year after year thanks to a careful strategy aimed at reducing consumption, improving production processes and supporting renewable energy sources.

GROUP GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TREND
2016-2020

124,055 tCO₂eq

86,878 tCO₂eq

86,251 tCO₂eq

51,512 tCO₂eq

50,408 tCO₂eq

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020
OUR COMMITMENT

Attention to the well-being of people

2020, a pandemic year

Never before has every available resource been required to overcome a crisis which has affected employee safety above all. Aquafil Group has demonstrated its ability to respond to the occasion, not only by ensuring all the necessary measures to reduce health risks, but by taking advantage of the opportunity to strategically invest in the future.

A timely response

The global emergency did not catch the Group unprepared: the presence of factories in China meant learning the best strategies to combat infections, and when the pandemic spread to the rest of the world, this made it possible to intervene promptly, protecting employee health and safety.

The speed and effectiveness of the measures adopted has made Aquafil a point of reference for many other Italian companies, which have benefitted from the Group’s experience to improve their response to the health crisis.

For more information, please refer to the 2020 Group Consolidated Financial Statements, p. 58
Social Intranet

In 2020, the Group launched the corporate Social Intranet as a pilot project for the Italian facilities, thus taking an important step towards an increasingly open and participatory corporate culture. The objectives of this initiative are twofold: to simplify and speed up internal communications, and foster sharing and sense of belonging of the Group's employees. Above all, the Social Intranet has played a fundamental role in maintaining opportunities for employees to socialize despite the physical distancing made necessary by the pandemic. Socializing or entertainment events were organized online, allowing the solidity of relationships to continue despite prolonged distancing.

Communication networks

Aquafil has shared all available knowledge about the virus with its employees from the start, opening dedicated communication channels to request information and offering specific training on the subject. A commitment that has allowed the whole Group to feel safe.

From the crisis to a new beginning

Actions in response to the pandemic, but also thanks to the pandemic. In fact, Aquafil took advantage of the situation to concentrate investments in areas less affected by the restrictions, such as Research and Development. Finding new ways to increase the circularity of products, extending the range of recoverable waste and stimulating collaborations with new partners are, in fact, essential to maintaining and strengthening the position reached by Aquafil and its ability to always offer new sustainable products.
OUR COMMITMENT

Shared responsibility along the supply chain

Aquafil strongly believes in the benefits that increasingly circular and virtuous supply chains can bring. For this reason, over the years, the Group has constantly invested in strengthening the collaboration with its customers, recognized as key players in achieving significant results in the various areas linked to sustainability.

For more information, please refer to the 2020 Group Consolidated Financial Statements, p. 74

Napapijri and the Circular Series collection

In 2020, Napapijri extended its offer of circular products, creating the Circular Series collection - products that are recyclable thanks to the mono-material composition of each component (ECONYL® yarn and Nylon 6).

In addition, the company has launched a take back program which allows consumers to return their jacket to the store for regeneration after two years.
Coral Eyewear

Coral Eyewear is the first British brand to launch a collection of eyewear made of ECONYL® polymer. The frames are made of ECONYL® and the cases are made of recycled plastic, all shipped in recyclable packaging.

Consumers will be able to return frames to be regenerated thanks to a take-back system currently being studied.

Mammut: Close the Loopp

This project was born in 2020 from the collaboration between Mammut, a company specializing in mountaineering equipment and clothing, Aquafil, and the NGO Protect Our Winters Switzerland.

The aim is to bring circular economy principles to mountain sports, giving a second life to mountaineering ropes that have reached end-of-use, which are sent to Aquafil and regenerated together with other pre- and post-consumer waste to produce ECONYL® yarn.
OUR COMMITMENT
Supporting local communities

The Group is committed to establish solid relationships with the communities of the territories which it operates in, respecting different cultures, traditions and specific needs. In order to favor their development, the activities undertaken by Aquafil seek to respond to the needs of local communities and civil society as a whole.

For more information, please refer to the 2020 Group Consolidated Financial Statements, p. 76

Repopulating the Sarca River

The Arco facility is located near the Sarca River Park, which includes a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. It is a protected area characterized by a great variety of environments and, for this reason, there is a particular attention to preserve it.

In the last two years, the fish population of the Sarca River has been severely reduced due to adverse weather events and predatory animals. In 2020, Aquafil decided to co-finance the river’s repopulation plan, contributing to the restoration of biodiversity and in support of local activities.
Youth training

Among the various activities that Aquafil carries out, there are initiatives that aim to enrich the training of young people and bring them closer to the workforce.

With this in mind, the Group once again participated in the TU SEI Project, now in its twelfth edition, organized by Confindustria Trento and Intesa San Paolo. The project’s goal is to promote close collaboration between schools and businesses, in order to help young people acquire the necessary skills required by the industrial world. Aquafil was also among the winning projects for 2020.

The bee garden

Slovenia has a long tradition of beekeeping and was among the first countries to introduce legal tools to protect these precious pollinators.

Hence the AquafilSLO initiative: in 2020 the uncultivated area next to the facility was transformed into a large garden filled with pollinator plants that nourish two hives on site. AquafilSLO was able to collect the first honey obtained from its own “bee garden”.

AquafilSLO has also joined the Bee Path initiative which connects companies, beekeepers and institutions that deal with caring for bees in urban areas.
PRODURRE UN KG DI FILO ECONYL® RICHIEDE