Certification
Traceability
100% European Textile Company
Certified Qualified Spinning Weaving
Luxury Upmarket Recognized Brand Quality Innovation
Creativity Know how Proximity Fashion Lifestyle Home
Club Masters of Linen is a club of European textile companies who have opted for 100% European traceability and want to offer their clients – brands or and consumers – a differentiation tool a high value-added identity.

The aims of Club Masters of Linen are to:
- promote the upmarket image and the price positioning of European linen,
- protect and enhance “Made in Europe”,
- co-finance members’ projects,
- leverage the flax and linen industry as a whole, both in terms of quality and quantity,
- stimulate retailers,
- inform the consumer.

Masters of Linen is a collective mark, registered by CELC which guarantees excellence and 100% European traceability at each stage of processing. It is available for finished products with a final composition of either pure linen, linen union (cotton warp, linen weft) or a linen-rich fibre content, in the areas of fashion and household textiles.

To ensure 100% European traceability of finished products, the spinners and weavers commit to a stringent set of rules set by Club Masters of Linen Committee - the governing body - and the companies’ Auditors and approved certification bodies.

CLUB MASTERS OF LINEN is led by Marie De maegdt, head of Textile Department at CELC, for 10 years. As an expert in textile innovation and development, Marie also regularly participates in trend meetings of leading textile trade fairs.

The CELC has given Club Masters of Linen an operating budget of €135,000, more than 60% of which is earmarked for co-financing operations – representing 50% of the budget allocated to the project. Co-financing leverages the budget and enhances mobilisation of the entire linen industry for 100% European innovation and creation. This dedicated budget and its accompanying action plan are in addition to the Be Linen European programme (an investment of 3.3 million euros over a 3-year period), and the ongoing promotional activities of CELC.

Based on Club Masters of Linen’s specific timetable of events, these collective and individual projects will enhance the reputation of Club Masters of Linen and promote the 100% European origin and craftsmanship of fabrics – or finished linen products to downstream professionals through to retail and the general public.
Membership of Club Masters of Linen is governed by a stringent set of rules.

- FOR SPINNERS, these conditions are as follows: 98% of their scutched fibre is of EU origin and dew-retted. **100% of production is carried out within Europe** or by a fully-owned subsidiary located in one of the nations specified in the rules of the “pan-European cumulation system” (Eur1/Eur Med). Finally, no trading is permitted in yarn originating outside the EuroMed zone.

At the present time, 8 European spinners have satisfied the membership requirements:

- Cariaggi -I-
- Hungaro-Len -H-
- Iafil -I-
- Linificio E Canapificio Nazionale -I-
- Safilin -F-
- Spinnerij Lambrecht -B-
- Stanislas Cock -B-
- Toscano -I-

- WEAVERS,
In the case of weavers/knitters, their production unit must be located within Europe and at least 55% of the total annual quantity of linen yarn or fabrics they purchase must be European. **Weavers are allowed to display the Masters Linen mark on their 100% European products, and to pass it on to their customers, under the same conditions.**

They must therefore be able to demonstrate that they purchase their yarn from the 8 spinner members and/or from other spinning companies, the European origin of whose yarns can be proven by an equivalent traceability audit process (e.g. Flanders Flax Yarn, a yarn collection produced by Jos Vanneste -B-)

Of the 25 European weaver members of CELC who have signed the contract, 7 have already had their membership approved:

- Cotonificio Albini -I-
- Deltracon bvba -B-
- F.lli Graziano -I-
- Lapuan Kankurit -Fi-
- Lemaitre Demeestere -F-
- Libeco-Lagae -B-
- Nelen & Delbeke -B-

The remainder are currently undergoing the audit.

**Compliance with these membership rules is checked validated annually, either by an external Auditor or by one of the certification bodies (Centrocot -I- and Centexbel -B-) under the control of the Club Masters of Linen Committee - governance the governing body.**

This Committee is made up of serving business leaders:

- Raymond Libeert Libeco Lagae weaver -B-
- Christian Mekerke Safilin spinner -F-
- Patrick Lönn Linificio spinner -I-
- Severino Graziano F. Li Graziano weaver -I-
- Olivier Ducatillion Lemaitre Demeestere weaver -F-

This Committee is chaired by Raymond Libeert.
3/ IN THE FUTURE, WHO CAN JOIN CLUB MASTERS OF LINEN?

- Condition no. 1: membership of CELC, either as a full member or a correspondent,

- Submitting an application to the Committee,

- Undertaking to have an audit of compliance with the membership requirements performed each year, either by an external Auditor or by one of the certification bodies (Centrocot -1- and Centexbel -B), and to submit the result of this audit to the Committee by 31 March:

  - Spinners demonstrate that 98% of scutched fibre is European and dew-retted + 100% European production

  - Weavers demonstrate that 55% or more of their yarn or fabrics are European + 100% European production

  - Knitters demonstrate that 55% or more of their yarn is European + 100% European production

  - Brands / “editors” demonstrate that 55% or more of their fabrics are European

  - Approval by the Committee, as evidenced by the signing of the contract authorising use of the trademark.

  - No supplementary subscription for Club Masters of Linen membership is required in addition to the CELC membership – either directly or via National Association.

  - only the auditing costs are payable by the company (approximately €400).
4/ WHAT ARE THE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS OF CLUB MASTERS OF LINEN?

Belonging to Club Masters of Linen offers an assurance that the production facilities of member companies are based in Europe. It guarantees the 100% European traceability of members’ products, so that this origin can be used as a selling point.

- For spinners:
belonging to Club Masters of Linen grants members the right to display the Club Masters Linen mark on their yarn, and thus provide their weaver customers with a guarantee regarding traceability and 100% European origin.

- For weavers/knitters:
belonging to Club Masters of Linen grants members the right to use the Club Masters of Linen mark, and to pass the Masters of Linen mark on to their brand/“editor” customers who have chosen to purchase woven/knitted fabrics of 100% European origin.

- For Brands/“editors”
the Masters of Linen mark provides the consumer with a guarantee regarding 100% European traceability of the textile material used to make the end-product.

5/ HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?

Each WEAVER/KNITTER will be able to pass on the new Masters of Linen logo to its own brand/“editor” customers.

In addition to the European Linen base line, this logo will bear an identification number that is unique to each weaver/knitter/customer to whom it is transmitted.

WEAVERS/KNITTERS will be keen to exploit this new seal of excellence once they have satisfied the stringent demands surrounding its use, and they will exercise self-discipline in using it.

BRANDS/“EDITORS” who qualify to use this new logo will certainly want to exploit the benefits of European traceability in their dealings with demanding consumers.
**ICONOGRAPHY**

Available on the pressroom www.cosicom.net

20 - DELTRACON - outdoor linen
21 - SAFILIN - Oekotex linen yarn for piqué polo knit
22 - LINIFICIO - Gots dyed linen yarn
23 - TOSCANO - Oekotex dyed linen yarn
24 - STANISLAS COCK - Oekotex random dyed linen yarn
25 - IAFIL - linen and cashmere yarn
26 - HUNGARO-LEN - tencel and linen yarn
27 - SAFILIN + CHRISTOPHE PILLET - Tech & Design - linen roving knitted jumpsuit
28 - F.LLI GRAZIANO - bed linen
29 - LEMAITRE DEMEESTERE + SISMO - Tech & Design - textile variable density
30 - LIBECO - LAGAE - washed linen

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The plant
It is made of a single stem, approximately 1 meter high on which are 80 to 100 leaves. The flower, most often blue, has a center consisting of 5 lobes which each contain 2 seeds.
Growth is rapid, the plant matures in 100 days. Flax is cultivated as a textile plant for the fibers in the stem and for its seeds which produce a quality oil.

Scutching
The flax fibers are in the stem. To use them, they must be extracted from the bark around them and the wood inside the stem also must be removed.
Scutching is done after collecting the plants, most often between August and December.
The following steps are shelling, stretching, braking and threshing. Combing, the first spinning operation, is today often done by scutchers. The combed fibers look like soft, lustrous ribbons.

Retting
When it has matured, the flax is pulled out of the ground and laid in the field in bunches where the alternating rain and sunshine allows it to ret. The combined action of sun and rain detaches the plant’s fibrous part by eliminating the pectose which holds the fibers to the woody part.
Retting is an important operation that plays a key role in the quality of the linen fiber.

Spinning
Flax spinning includes different operations which transform the fibers into yarn. Untangling, regularizing, stretching and spinning fibers are all complex steps whose techniques vary depending on the raw material used and the type of yarn to be produced.
We can distinguish two traditional techniques for pure flax fibers:
- « wet » spinning uses mainly long fibers and produces thin yarns (for clothes and household linens…)
- « dry » spinning uses long and short fibers and produces thick yarns (for home decoration and technical uses).

Yarn qualities like finesses, tenacity and regularity are constantly improved and novelty (twisted, blended …), ecru or bleached yarns are created using the latest embellishment techniques.

Weaving
Thanks to its unique proportions, linen yarns let us produce a broad range of fabrics with multiple uses which have a high quality and an acknowledged esthetic value. Thank to a perpetual innovation and creativity.

Knitting
For the past few years, European linen has been introduced to the knitted fabric industry. Pure linen or chief-value linen blends continue multiplying in a variety of styles which can be casual or city-chic. Knits play a major role in contemporary fashion for both men and women and linen has found a niche thanks to the efforts of linen spinners who produce smooth, fine yarns to meet the industry’s technical requirements.
Circular and flat linen knits result in high-end jerseys recognizable by their hand and shine. Their drapiness and fluidity bear witness to the fact that they do not wrinkle.
Full-fashioning techniques validate linen through refined, finished details while the trend toward handknits helps us rediscover the charm of craftsmanship.

Finishing
Finishing groups together treatments which modify the look of linen yarns or fabrics and give them added values sought by consumers in terms of comfort, esthetic, function or performance.
Four categories can be distinguished:
- bleaching
- dyeing
- printing
- finishing
Linen places eco-friendly processes at the heart of exclusive new developments. With low-impact reactive dyes, eco-friendly crease removal treatments, enzyme finishes, and certification through the GOTS and OEKOTEX labels, linen resolutely promotes responsible values.
ABOUT
CELC MASTERS OF LINEN

The European Confederation of Linen and Hemp (CELC) is the only European agro-industrial organization federating all the stages of production and transformation for linen & hemp. It is the privileged spokesperson for 10,000 European companies and oversees the fiber’s development from plant to finished product.

Created in 1951, the CELC incites reflection, market analyses, industry concertation and strategic orientations.

With its « CELC MASTERS OF LINEN » promotional platform, the confederation creates an ideal competitive environment for industry companies. Its actions, inscribed in an international context, stimulate innovation and rely on the value of these natural fibers with their proven environmental qualities.

Through its Textile Pole, it assures the promotion of the European industry in the areas of fashion and lifestyle.

With its Technical Pole and European Scientific Committee, the CELC helps its members move towards the future to discover new technical opportunities such as eco-construction and high-performing composite products.

The Linen Dream Lab is a showroom dedicated to creativity and to textile or technical innovations. It offers services to innovators in the fashion, lifestyle and design industries: accompaniment in creation, aid in sourcing, publication of trend books, prototype fashion and home fabrics.

Material library – yarn library - fabric library
A space for private meetings.

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