



Assocomaplast

ITALIAN PLASTICS AND RUBBER
PROCESSING MACHINERY AND MOULDS
MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

Associated with:
CONFINDUSTRIA,
FEDERMACCHINE and EUROMAP

Assago, February 23, 2010
SA

PRESS RELEASE

RESTART OUT OF BREATH for the Italian industry of plastics and rubber machinery

According to the estimates worked out by Assocomaplast (the Italian trade association, CONFINDUSTRIA's member, gathering about 160 manufacturers of plastics and rubber machinery, equipment and moulds), on the basis of preliminary ISTAT data related to the sector's foreign trade in 2009 and the survey on turnover and export for Member companies all along 2009, the comparison with the previous year shows a remarkable slackening for the industry.

The sharp decrease of production reflects both the downturn of export and the deep crisis of the domestic market.

Italian market of machinery, equipment and moulds for plastics and rubber (million euro)

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 (estimates) |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|---------------------|
| production | 4,250 | 4,200 | 3,200 |
| export | 2,753 | 2,451 | 1,800 |
| import | 634 | 589 | 450 |
| domestic market | 2,132 | 2,338 | 1,850 |
| trade balance (surplus) | 2,118 | 1,862 | 1,350 |

The slump in export regards more or less almost all the destination areas and, more in detail, all the top ten countries, that represent over 55% out of the total. In this latter classification just two exceptions can be found. One is Turkey: the Italian export towards this market has performed a constant growing trend all along the last decade, in light of the significant development of the local processing industry, and the 2009/2008 drop is not so considerable (-7,8%). The other is Benelux: -0,9%.

Moreover, a moderate optimism comes out from the latest survey carried out by Assocomaplast Secretariat among its Members: as a matter of fact, the vast majority (81%) of respondents has elements for expecting an increase of turnover in the first semester of 2010, in comparison with the second half of 2009, also thanks to an improved logbook of orders in last January, with respect to November-December 2009. Better prospects regard in particular European Union countries, South America and Asia except China, where the recovery of sales is somehow weaker. However, to this purpose operators look forward to next CHINAPLAS – that will take place in Shanghai on April 19-22, 2010, with an Italian pavilion on 1.200 sqm, gathering some 50 exhibitors – hoping it will be an opportunity to see confirmed the rebound of export towards that country.

To sustain export, within its promotional activity in favour of the made in Italy, Assocomaplast Secretariat is organising some technical seminars attended by experts from some companies of the sector: in Algiers (March 15), Ho Chi Minh City (March 18), Belgrade (March 23), Mexico City (March 24), Kiev (April 15), Shanghai (April 21).



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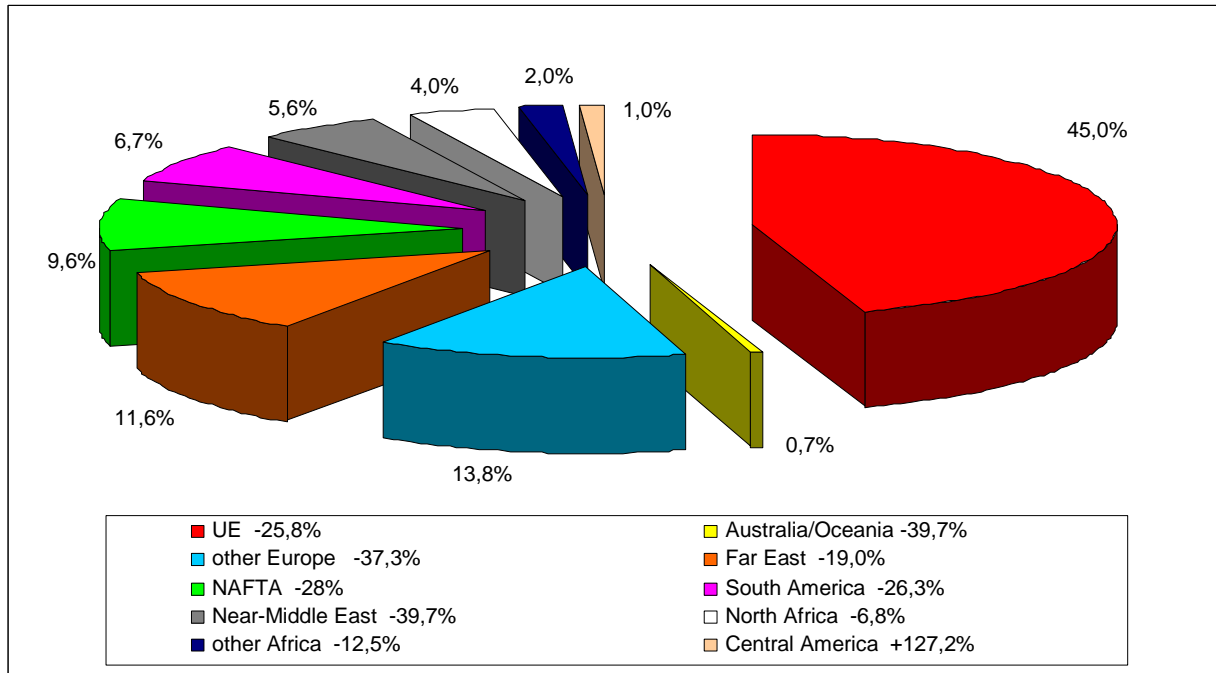


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2.

Italian export of machinery, equipment and moulds for plastics and rubber by areas (% share – 2009 estimates - Δ% 2009/2008)



Italian export of machinery, equipment and moulds for plastics and rubber top ten destination countries (2009 estimates)

| countries | million euro | % out of the total | Δ% 2009/2008 |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Germany | 241.96 | 13.5 | -15.7 |
| France | 119.56 | 6.7 | -25.8 |
| Russia | 102.97 | 5.8 | -54.0 |
| United States | 99.60 | 5.6 | -24.7 |
| China | 98.43 | 5.5 | -12.3 |
| Spain | 85.02 | 4.8 | -22.3 |
| Turkey | 67.94 | 3.8 | -7.8 |
| Poland | 63.96 | 3.6 | -45.3 |
| Benelux | 54.25 | 3.0 | -0.9 |
| Mexico | 53.39 | 3.0 | -30.4 |
| other countries | 802.03 | 44.7 | n.d. |
| world | 1,789.11 | 100.0 | -27.0 |

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