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PRESS RELEASE

SPRINTING FORWARDS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS **of Italian import-exports of plastics and rubber machinery**

The statistical analysis performed by **Assocomaplast** (Italian trade association, part of CON-FINDUSTRIA, representing over 160 companies) on foreign trade data provided by ISTAT regarding the **first six months of this year**, reveals – in comparison to January-June 2014 – a **markedly positive performance** for Italy's exports and imports of plastics and rubber machinery, equipment and moulds.

The growth recorded since the first months of 2014 has continued this year and actually has increased: by the end of June 2015, the rise in purchases from abroad approached 17%. This provides further reassurance of economic recovery for the domestic market, though it cannot yet be described as a glittering performance. **Sales outside Italy increased by 7.5%**. The trade balance also improved.

"Such trend" remarked **Alessandro Grassi, President of Assocomaplast**, "is in fact in line with the results revealed by our latest sentiment survey throughout our membership of the current status of business."

The survey revealed a **climate of moderate optimism**, both as regards recent results – in July, 50% of the interviewees indicated an increase in orders with respect to a year ago – and as regards outlook, with 44% of interviewees expecting further expansion, and 45% expecting a consolidation of its turnover over the current six-month period.

"These indicators also show an **improvement with respect to earlier surveys**," said Grassi. From the point of view of equipment types, the largest volumes of imported injection moulding machines, flexographic printing machines and moulds – to mention those making up the largest proportion of the total, though the same applies to other types of equipment – were recorded for Germany, the country that confirms its role as principal supplier of technology for Italy.

Germany, historically also the **most important destination market for Italian exports** in this sector, confirms its position from this point of view as well. German processors purchased Made in Italy plant for a value of almost 200 million euro (+19% with respect to the first six months of 2014).

In terms of geographical macro-areas for sales overall, there was a notable increase in business from EU countries and the NAFTA group. Amongst the UE countries there was an increase of sales in Germany, as mentioned previously, but also in Spain and the Czech Republic. As regards North America, the most significant result was the 36% increase in exports to the United States, along with the by no means negligible figure of +15% in Mexico. **Encouraging results also arrived from Brazil**, with a 17% improvement that induces hope at least for stabilization, in contrast to the reductions seen over the last four years.

The further decline in exports to Russia (-39%), still negatively affected by the problems caused by the Ukraine crisis, comes as no surprise. Negative values were also seen for India (-24%), where Italian suppliers are finding it difficult to make headway notwithstanding the market's potential, and China, where there are marked swings in performance from year to year.

2.

Italian imports-exports of machinery, equipment and moulds for plastics and rubber
(January-June - 000 euro)

	imports			exports		
	2014	2015	Δ% 2015/ 2014	2014	2015	Δ% 2015/ 2014
flexographic printing machines	10,495	12,990	23.8	59,073	54,920	-7.0
plants for mono and multifilaments	453	1,176	159.9	16,459	22,138	34.5
injection moulding machines	37,189	53,308	43.3	50,232	51,117	1.8
extruders	8,613	7,858	-8.8	148,718	137,694	-7.4
blow moulding machines	5,605	2,823	-49.6	70,652	76,090	7.7
thermoforming machines	4,812	8,328	73.1	35,693	24,390	-31.7
presses for tyres and inner tubes	182	476	161.0	13,744	34,601	151.8
presses	7,631	4,948	-35.2	28,369	50,422	77.7
machinery for moulding or forming	6,046	4,674	-22.7	70,963	77,754	9.6
machines for reactive resins	1,630	616	-62.2	21,781	22,765	4.5
machines for foamed products	2,815	2,165	-23.1	14,133	21,634	53.1
equipment for size reduction	1,270	1,898	49.5	8,212	9,103	10.8
mixers	1,166	1,760	51.0	18,188	18,695	2.8
cutting, splitting and peeling machines	892	2,193	145.9	5,582	8,095	45.0
other machines	21,289	23,204	9.0	173,982	206,277	18.6
parts and components	68,997	87,156	26.3	187,384	191,888	2.4
moulds	121,870	136,124	11.7	367,032	379,164	3.3
total	300,955	351,697	16.9	1,290,197	1,386,747	7.5

Destination areas
of the Italian plastics and rubber machinery, equipment and moulds exports
(January-June - %)

	2014	2015
Europe (UE)	60.0 (47.2)	60.0 (50.3)
North America/NAFTA	11.0	13.0
Central/South America	7.0	6.5
Africa	4.8	4.7
Asia/Oceania	17.2	15.8
total	100.0	100.0



3.

Top ten destination markets
of the Italian plastics and rubber machinery, equipment and moulds exports (January-June - 000 euro)

	2014	% on total		2015	% on total	$\Delta\%$ 15/14
Germany	164,642	12.8	Germany	196,268	14.2	19.2
United States	86,372	6.7	United States	117,058	8.4	35.6
China	73,801	5.7	Poland	65,163	4.7	0.3
Poland	64,986	5.0	China	62,622	4.5	-15.2
France	62,650	4.9	France	61,072	4.4	-2.5
Russia	55,625	4.3	Spain	59,277	4.3	22.0
United Kingdom	53,662	4.2	United Kingdom	58,575	4.2	9.2
Spain	48,579	3.8	Czech Republic	51,951	3.8	21.5
Turkey	46,128	3.6	Mexico	47,428	3.4	15.2
Czech Republic	42,771	3.3	Turkey	44,405	3.2	-3.7
total "top 10"	42,771	3.3	total "top 10"	763,819	55.1	9.2
other countries	699,216	54.3	other countries	622,928	44.9	5.4
totale world	590,981	45.7	totale world	1,386,747	100.0	7.5

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