

### **AMAPLAST Position Paper**

AMAPLAST, the Italian Plastics and Rubber Processing Machinery and Moulds Manufacturers' Association, is aware of the sense of alarm amongst the population regarding the impact that plastics are having on the environment, if not properly managed to be disposed and recycled.

Plastic (marine) littering requires an urgent solution, making not only the industry, but the entire population aware of it. The question has become a highly topical theme partly as a result of an increasing sensitivity to environmental issues in society at large, above all amongst young people, who are demonstrating their intense interest in these problems and their proactive intention to contribute to their solution. However, it is important to provide accurate information and education regarding the use of plastic products (above all single-use packaging) and their appropriate means of disposal.

Nonetheless it is important to remember that plastic:

- ✓ is an innovative material in continuous development, fundamental in everyone's daily life
- ✓ can be designed to be 100% recyclable
- ✓ is light (lower costs for transportation and less pollution), hygienic and cheap, with excellent thermal and acoustic insulation properties
- ✓ is a life-saving material in medicine
- ✓ increases food shelf life, ensuring that many types of goods and products are accessible to all
- ✓ grants a high level of environmental sustainability due to the lower carbon and water footprint than alternative materials
- ✓ can be processed in a variety of shapes and forms thanks to increasingly advanced industrial technologies
- ✓ improves quality of life in various sectors.

AMAPLAST is monitoring developments in legislation and standards with regard to the use of plastic, considering that the correct way forward is not to ban (or strongly restrict) the use of polymers, but rather to implement collection and recycling systems, together with the development of new recyclable products.

AMAPLAST supports the aim to prioritize reduction, reuse, and re-design of plastic, along the principle of the EU waste hierarchy. AMAPLAST considers that processing technology now plays a fundamental role in the transition towards a Circular Economy, not only by means of the mechanical recycling of plastic waste, but also with the constant, ongoing implementation of machinery for processing virgin and secondary raw polymers. In this outlook, AMAPLAST Member companies will be able to supply the technological solutions to these challenges.

For this reason, AMAPLAST is committed to:

- providing continuous updates for its Member companies on developments in EU legislation and in the main initiatives in order to reduce the plastic impact on the environment
- maintaining close contacts with Italian Associations and European organizations working within the plastics industry, for a shared and coordinated response
- retaining and reinforcing relations with stakeholders
- providing its effort to circulate comprehensive information for consumers
- further encouraging the development of new integrated technology in order to give plastic products a truly "circular" life cycle
- sharing ideas, projects and information, in collaboration with universities, research institutes and companies.

