



Assocomaplast

ITALIAN PLASTICS AND RUBBER
PROCESSING MACHINERY AND MOULDS
MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

Associated with:
CONFINDUSTRIA,
FEDERMACCHINE and EUROMAP

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PRESS RELEASE

ITALIAN MANUFACTURERS AT "K"

Düsseldorf triennial world leading exhibition is approaching and, as in former editions, the interests and attention of many Italian exhibitors are therein focused. A great effort for specialized made in Italy (machinery, ancillary equipments and moulds' manufacturers, raw materials and additives' producers, processing industry) with the goal of a real trade feed-back. As usual, Italy holds the second most relevant representation, just behind German one, with over 470 companies (15% out of the total number of exhibitors) on 30,000 sqm net area (about 17% out of the total area of the trade show).

As far as machinery sector only is concerned, it must be outlined that some 315 companies will be filling out around 25,000 sqm area (12% out of the total number of machinery exhibitors and 19% of the net area occupied by the specific sector).

Last year's balance of the Italian plastics and rubber processing machinery and moulds manufacturers' industry – which could even hold in 2007, according to a quite positive trend in the first months – is satisfying, thanks to export above all, that is the "engine" of the sector, but also thanks to the recovery of the Italian processors' investments, in light of a growth of the domestic market (+4% compared to 2005).

In fact, the 2006 sector's survey worked out by Assocomaplast (CONFINDUSTRIA's member) shows, with respect to the year before, that both production and export increased by some 4%, going back to 2004 levels.

Export's evolution between 2004 and 2006, regarding the main geo-economic areas and the top ten markets, is summarized in the two graphics reported below.

Germany, that will host the big showcase in autumn, is confirmed – for the sixteenth year in a row – the first destination market of the sectorial made in Italy, having absorbed in the decade 1997-2006 an average of 14.5% out of the total each year.

It is worthwhile to underline the value of the Italian technology; the trade Association noticed that the Italian plastics and rubber machinery manufacturers, ASSOCOMAPLAST Members, own 512 European patents.

Finally, it must be remarked that the new Assocomaplast's advertising campaign calls the attention on the original Italian hi-tech.



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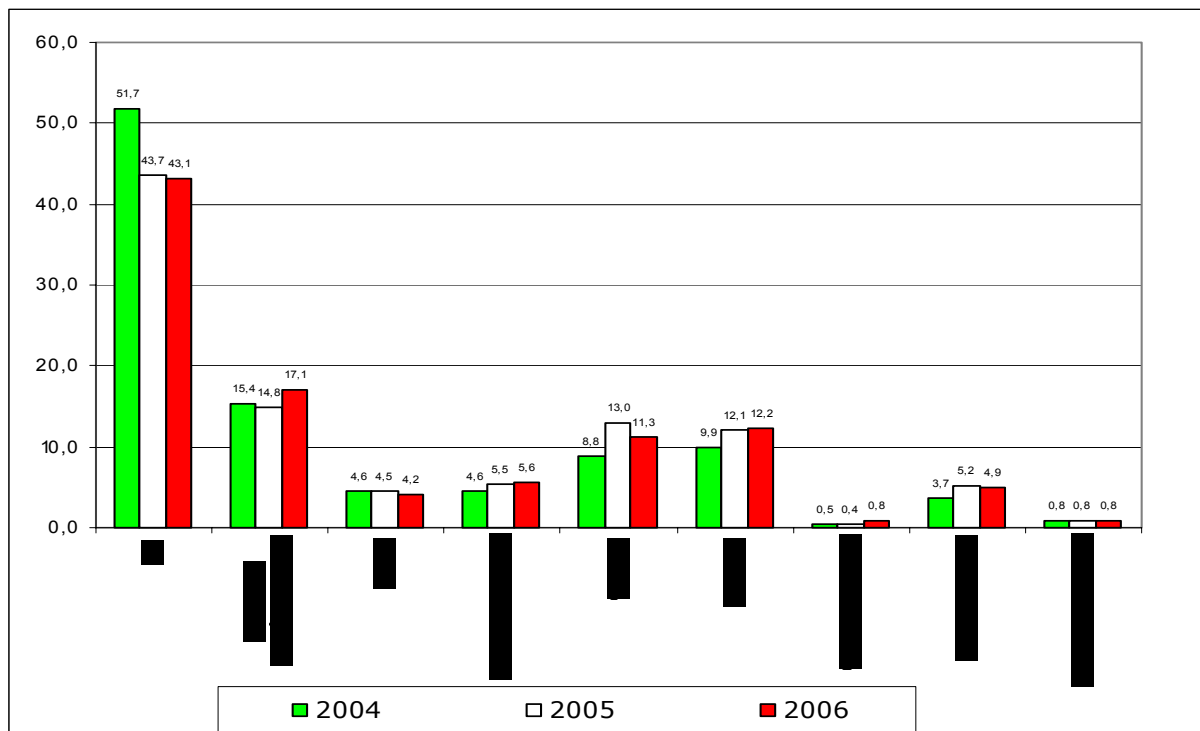
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2.

Italian market for plastics and rubber machinery (million euro)

	2004	2005	2006
production	3,870	3,700	3,850
export	2,274	2,184	2,268
import	634	567	589
domestic market	2,230	2,083	2,171
trade balance (surplus)	1,640	1,617	1,679

Italian export of plastics and rubber machinery (areas - % out of total 2004-2006)



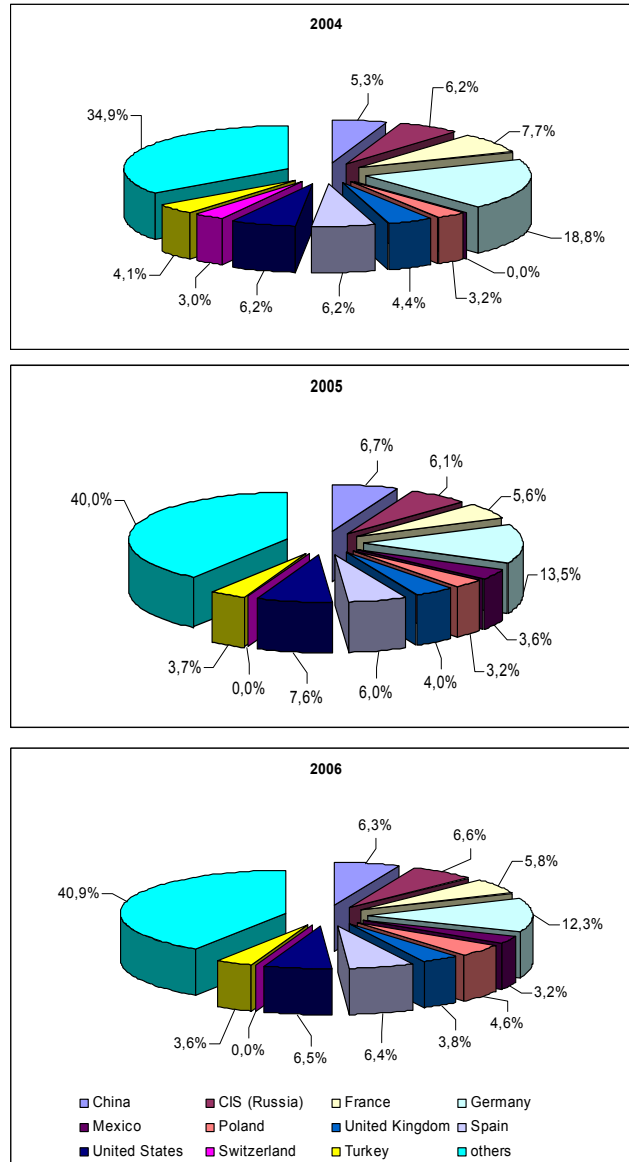


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3.

Italian export of plastics and rubber machinery (the "top 10" - % shares - 2004-2006)



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