



# Assocomaplast

ITALIAN PLASTICS AND RUBBER PROCESSING MACHINERY  
AND MOULDS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

Aderente a:  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### UPS AND DOWNS OF ONE YEAR

For the plastics and rubber machinery manufacturers three quarters of stagnating sales on the domestic market. Better the export.

The results of the cyclical survey carried out in the last days by Assocomaplast (the Italian trade Association, belonging to the National Industry Federation, Confindustria) about situation and perspectives for the national incoming orders, it reveals a negative tendency.

The outcome still confirms a falling trend for all considered indicators (turnover and new orders as for Italy) both in value and units.

According to the consistency of the portfolio in number of months, levels remain to a minimum, likewise they were in the previous similar statistical audits.

On the contrary, a better outlook characterises the abroad shipments which seem might enjoy a certain improvement in demand, according to the typology and technological content of the machinery itself (factors which still allow to be a few optimist) and on the basis of the signs released at the end of August on the occasion of the CIPAD (Council of International Plastics Directors) meeting, confirming the upswing phase of the sectoral conjuncture and the foreseen recovery along the last quarter of 2003.

A positive mark comes looking at the foreign trade data related to the first six months of the running year and the relevant comparison with the same period of 2002. In terms of aggregated values, Assocomaplast points out, as a matter of fact, an increase of export by almost 7% and over 6% decrease of import (which confirms the poor propensity of the Italian clients to invest). The diverging trend of the two commercial streams brought to an expansion of the Italian trade balance – traditionally with a large surplus – which passed from 668-million euro at the end of June 2002, to 750-million in the first half of 2003.

According to this, the Italian suppliers seem recovering in terms of percentage on the most important destination markets with respect to the German competitors, partly redeeming the negative performance recorded by last December on the year before towards the top outlets of the world ranking. In particular, it can be observed that China absorbed in value the 19% more of "made in Italy" machinery, Russia the 47%, United States 19%, Germany 14% and, last but not least, Spain with 4% increase.

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