

TECNOLOGIE **PROCESSI** 'AMPAGGIO

TRASFORMAZIONE **MATERIALI POLIMERICI** **NOVEMBRE** 2025 MILANO

NH Milano Congress Centre

DELLE MATERIE PLASTICHE DEGLI STAMPI E DELLO STAMPAGGIO











The Transformation of the European Plastics & Rubber Machinery Industry

Thorsten Kühmann 20 November 2025









Good News First: The Plastics Industry has a strong growth record over decades!



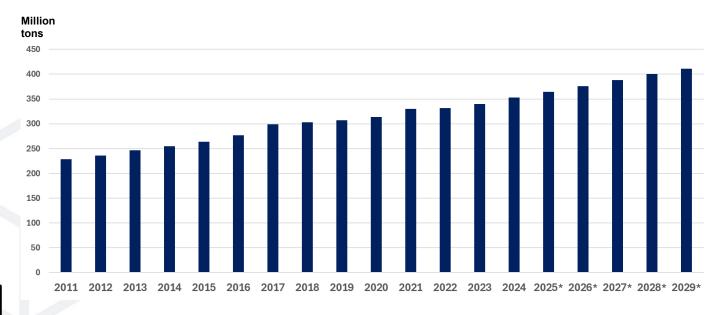






ELLE MATERIE PLASTICHE OS PROPERTIES DEGLI STAMPI CON CONTRACTOR C

Plastics Production worldwide



* Estimate









Transformation Driver 1: Chinese Competition!

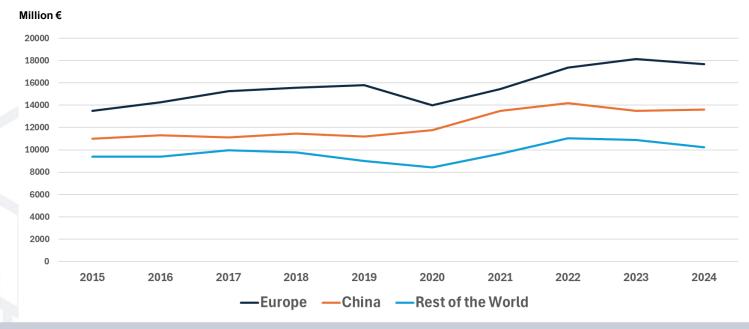


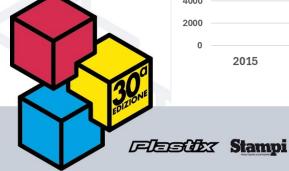






Plastics and Rubber Machinery Europe – China – Rest of the World





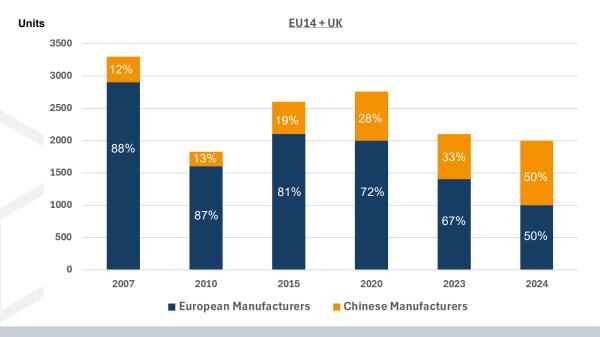






2025

Shift in Market Share in Europe to Chinas advantage Example: Injection Moulding Machines











Transformation Driver 2: Global Trade!

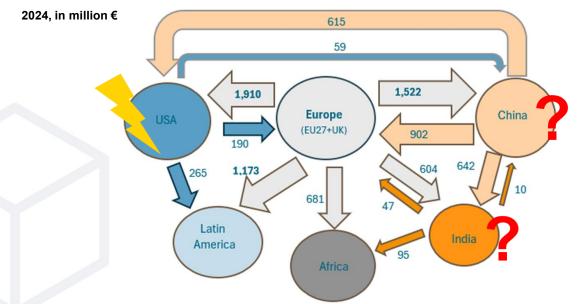








Trade Flows Plastics and Rubber Machinery



Exports (million €)

Europe 13,014

China 8,274

USA 819









Transformation Driver 3: Circular Economy!

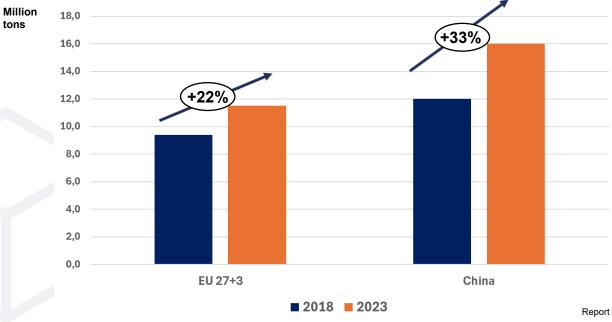






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Plastic Waste collected for Recycling













Transformation Driver 4: Industry 4.0 and Al!







2025

Situation in the (German) industry

96 %

(2022: 91 %)

of all companies state that Industry 4.0 is indispensable for remaining competitive on the international market.

72 %

(2024: 52 %)

of all companies see **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** as the technology to bring lasting change in the industry.

71 %

(2022: 65 %)

of all companies already use Industry 4.0 applications.

81 %

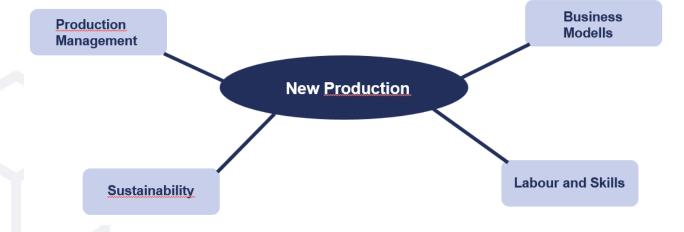
of all companies see Industry 4.0 predominantly as a chance rather than a risk.







Factors influenced by I 4.0 / AI











Transformation Driver 5: Lack of skilled staff!





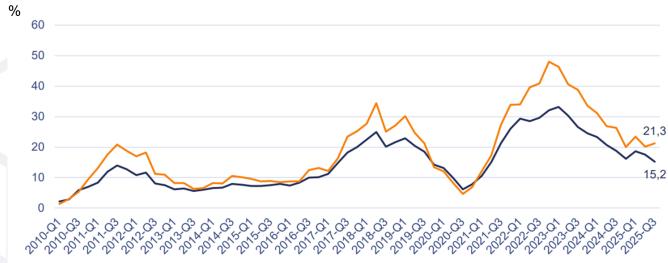


2025

Labor shortage in Germany and Europe

Machinery and equipment manufacturers with production disruptions due to labor shortages, in percent





Source: European Commission









Challenges vs. Chances

- 1. Europe is under pressure: high labour costs, regulations, energy price, **but** stable democratic states and strong industrial background
- 2. Machinery Industry in Europe is small in company size, **<u>but</u>** many familiy owned and long term committed.
- 3. USA and China are decoupling, **but** European manufacturers have a solid global footprint and can extend this.
- 4. Europe faces a strong price issue, <u>but</u> European manufacturers can and must focus more on good enough (and source globally).
- 5. Europe has a demographic issue and thus looses skilled workforce, <u>but</u> smarter machines and good practical education help minimising the problem.





Stamp





We have to accept and embrace the power of transformation and we can drive the change to our advantage!





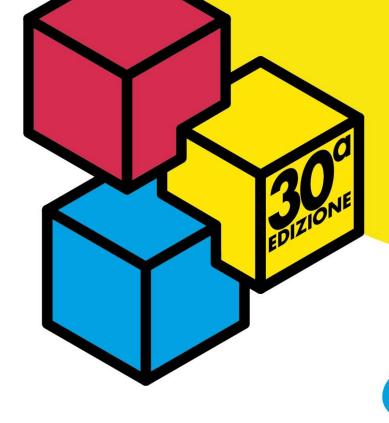








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CONGRESSO

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SI A ZIO PER AVER PARTECIPATO









