

## Remarkable È July 2011

### Demand in Plastics on the Rise

Plastic has many good properties and it is impossible to imagine life without it. It is light-weight and durable, easily malleable, provides excellent protection to lots of goods and is often superior to alternative materials in many aspects.

40% of plastics produced are used in packaging, 20% in the construction industry (pipes, window frames, etc.), 7% is used to form vehicle parts, almost 6% to develop electronic devices as well as electronic parts and the remaining 30% are, for example, used in medical technology, furniture, toys, clothes, etc.

Packaging made from plastic can, for instance, help to make foods more easily transportable and also keep them edible for longer. Whether packaging is an unnecessary embellishment or provides a functional use has to be evaluated on an individual case by case basis.

The industry, politicians and consumers should, however, bear in mind that more and more plastic is produced every year due to increasing prosperity and the growing world population. The small dip in the 2009 graph is the result of the economic crisis 2008 and 2009, but it does not constitute a turning point in the trend. Since plastic, unlike organic substances, takes several hundred years before rotting, politicians and producers, but also users should give some thought to what to do with these plastics.

### World Plastics production

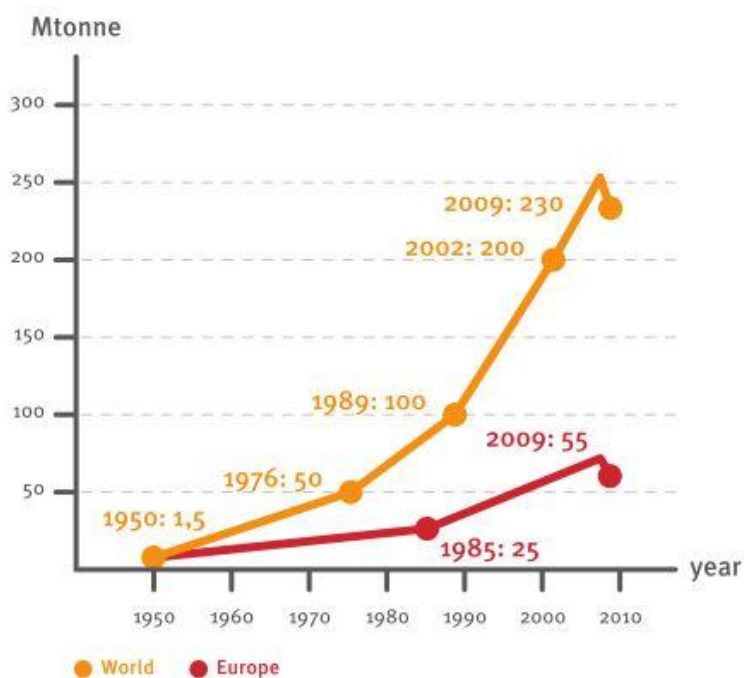


Figure 1. World Plastics Production 1950-2009

Source: PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

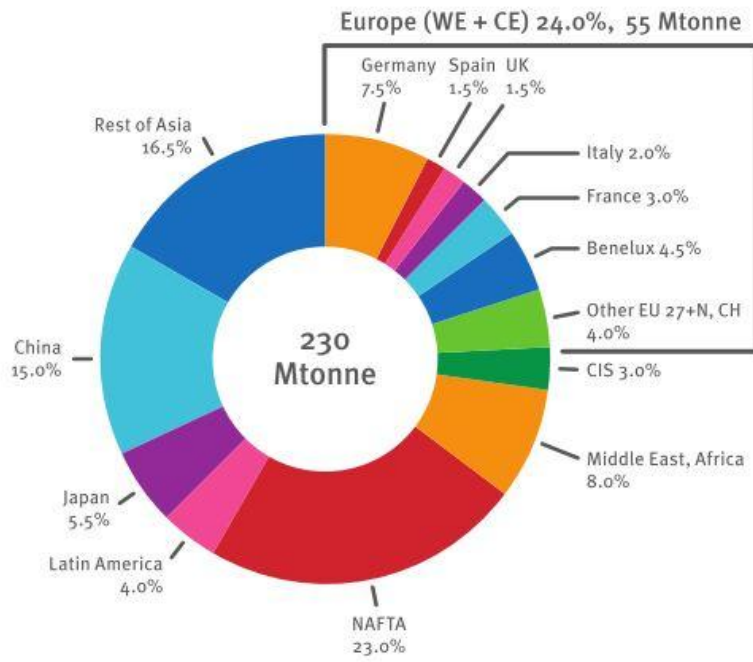


Figure 2. World Plastics Production 2009  
 Source: PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)

### European Plastics Demand by Segments 2009



Figure 4. Europe Plastics Demand by Segments 2009  
 Source: PlasticsEurope Market Research Group (PEMRG)