



cecimo

Where manufacturing begins

CECIMO PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Luigi Galdabini becomes President of the European Association of the Machine Tool Industries

Brussels, 7 December 2015 – During its meeting held on 3 December 2015 in Brussels, the CECIMO General Assembly elected Mr. Luigi Galdabini as President of CECIMO for a period of two years. Succeeding in this role Mr. Jean-Camille Uring, Executive Board Member of Fives and President of Symop, Mr. Galdabini has been entrusted with the responsibility of leading the European Association that represents 39% of the world machine tool (MT) production.

During his Presidency, Mr. Uring stressed that investments in modern manufacturing equipment and technology are key to improve productivity, efficiency and resource use. The adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies is essential to accelerate the shift of European industries towards smart, digitalized, inter-connected production. Mr. Uring underlined that higher amounts of direct equity and loan guarantees should be provided to SMEs, to help them overcome the capital shortages putting a brake to productive capital investments. He also called for adequate financing to help reinforce the infrastructure for research and innovation in advanced manufacturing technologies. He emphasized that substantial investment in education and training is needed to close the growing skills gap and help the existing workforce adapt to technological change.

The new CECIMO President, Mr. Galdabini, declared: “The European MT sector moves towards the adoption of disruptive technologies such as intelligent production and additive manufacturing. The sector is accelerating the integration of new technologies like big data and industrial internet into its equipment and services, laying the foundations of the future’s intelligent and connected factories. This evolution is reflected in CECIMO’s activities.” CECIMO urges the EU policy-makers to shape supportive framework conditions for the digitalisation of industry and for the development of additive manufacturing technologies to increase the competitiveness of the European industry as a whole.

These new industrial trends and technologies change the rules of global competition. The digitalisation of manufacturing and the penetration of disruptive technologies into the industrial base lead to significant productivity and efficiency gains. Breakthrough production techniques stretch the limits of product design and innovation whilst providing solutions to societal challenges. Moreover, the mass-customisation trend opens the way to the re-industrialisation of Europe. Against this background, Europe has to move faster than its competitors to tap into opportunities in advanced manufacturing.

According to Mr. Galdabini, it is clear that innovation is and will be the motor of growth for the MT industry, and the lack of investment in manufacturing is its most important obstacle. The EU decision makers must use the European Fund for Strategic Investments to finance programmes helping to accelerate “technology transfer” while tackling the underinvestment problem.

“Europe does not have the luxury to lag behind its competitors in disruptive technologies, like additive manufacturing, which transform the economy,” adds Mr Galdabini. “We have to aim for global leadership. We hope that the new EU Industrial Policy Roadmap and the Digital Single Market Strategy, for example, will give the necessary attention to additive manufacturing.”

A close cooperation between actors in multidisciplinary fields is especially important today, where “technology integration” is the rule. As the innovation cycle for new technologies gets shorter, innovation cooperation across the value chain and disciplines become an important factor influencing the speed of technology development and its diffusion.

Mr. Galdabini concludes: "I will make sure that manufacturing and re-industrialisation remain on top of economic policy priorities in the EU. We need a growth-friendly business environment for the European machine tool industry worldwide."

Who is Luigi Galdabini?

Born in 1958, Mr. Luigi Galdabini has a degree in mechanical engineering from the Polytechnic of Milan.

Since 1990, he has been the managing director of Cesare Galdabini spa, a company with headquarters in Cardano al Campo (VA), leader in the manufacturing of metal forming technology machine tools and machine testing equipment. The company has now reached its fourth generation, and has been an associate member of UCIMU-SISTEMI PER PRODURRE since 1948. In June 2012, Mr. Galdabini was elected president by the Assembly of this association.

He is chairman of AITA (Associazione Italiana Tecnologie Additive), the association involved in the field of additive manufacturing. He is vice president of UNIVA, Associazione degli Industriali della Provincia di Varese, and member of the General Council of Confindustria.

Luigi Galdabini was member of the Board of CECIMO prior to his appointment as President of CECIMO. He will be assisted by Dr. Frank Brinken (Switzerland), Chairman of the Economic Committee, Mr. Juha Mäkitalo (Finland), Chairman of the Technical Committee and Mr. George Blaha (Czech Republic), Chairman of the Communication and Advocacy Committee. Dr. Frank Brinken is the Vice-Chairman of Starrag Holding AG, Mr. Juha Mäkitalo is the President of Finn Power OY (Primapower) and Mr. George Blaha is the General Manager of Schneeberger Mineralgusstechnik, s.r.o.

About CECIMO

CECIMO is the European Association of the Machine Tool Industries. We bring together 15 national associations of machine tool Builders, which represent approximately 1500 industrial enterprises in Europe*, over 80% of which are SMEs. CECIMO covers 98% of the total machine tool production in Europe and about 39% worldwide. About 40% of CECIMO's production is shipped outside the EU. It accounts for over 150,000 employees and a turnover of €23 billion euro in 2014. For more information, visit www.cecimo.eu

*Europe = EU + EFTA + Turkey

#

For media enquiries, contact:

Filip Geerts, Director General of CECIMO
Tel +32 2 502 70 90 / Fax +32 2 502 60 82
filip.geerts@cecimo.eu