

SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING



A Key Driver of the Green and Digital Transformation

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Conference on “**Sustainable Manufacturing: A Key Driver of the Green and Digital Transformation**” brought together policy makers and industry representatives to discuss the fundamental role of the machine tool manufacturing sector as a key driver of Europe’s green and digital transformation. At this crucial moment for European industry, CECIMO’s conference provided a meaningful platform to highlight the latest EU policy developments in the context of the green and digital transformation. It highlighted the current state of play in the industry’s shift towards sustainable manufacturing and the rise of production technologies that help minimise the environmental impact of the sector.

Member of the European Parliament, Patrizia Toia, hosted the event and kickstarted it with a brief introduction of the latest policy developments, highlighting some of the key initiatives that the European Parliament has carried out with regards to the green and digital transformation. In her introductory speech, Ms Toia emphasized the need for Europe to fully exploit the Recovery and Resilience Fund and to strengthen international partnerships in the fields of energy, raw materials and trade.



Head of Unit for Digital Transformation of Industry at the European Commission, Amaryllis Verhoeven, delivered a keynote speech in which she underlined the importance of advanced manufacturing as an enabler of the green and digital transformation and pointed at financing tools and skills initiatives, as well as to establish an adequate regulatory and standardisation framework and bolster supply chain, that should allow the manufacturing sector to take full advantage of the valuable opportunities that the digital transformation can bring.

Dr. Heinz-Jürgen Prokop, President of CECIMO, outlined the current state of play of the green and digital transformation in the machine tool manufacturing sector, explaining the ongoing shift towards rethinking traditional industrial processes, eliminating unnecessary waste and promoting the recycling and reuse of product materials. He also emphasised that the uptake of advanced manufacturing technologies will be core to the broader ability of Europe's industry to drive fundamental change and achieve greater sustainability. Additionally, Dr. Prokop officially announced the most recent CECIMO publication titled "*Factsheet on Sustainable Manufacturing*", which provides a concise overview of the current political context of the green transition, the sustainable best practices that have been implemented by machine tool manufacturers and the key statistical evidence from the sector.



The **panel discussion** provided insights from different industrial sectors, on how the industry can and should play an active role in the green and digital transition to ensure that Europe fully reaps the economic and social benefits deriving from the realization of a truly sustainable society.



Blaise Mahieu, Head of Sustainability at GF Machining Solutions, highlighted that the machine tools industry is already a pioneer when it comes to green and digital processes, and how this industry is largely reducing the environmental impact of both, machine tools and related customer's applications. He mentioned as well the fundamental role of digitalization to enhance sustainability, especially on the service side.

Offering a corporate perspective on sustainable manufacturing, **Nathalie Errard, Head of EU Affairs for Airbus**, stressed the importance of the green transformation and data sharing for the aerospace sector as a means to preserve competitiveness and technological leadership, while underlining the significant challenges presented by rising energy prices, economic decoupling measures and difficult access to raw materials.



Benjamin Krieger, Director General of the European Association of Automotive Suppliers (CLEPA), emphasized the strong commitment of automotive suppliers towards sustainable mobility and sustainable production. He pointed out that competitiveness and capacity to invest in innovative and sustainable production methods were crucial factors for further progress.



Bringing the perspective of the automotive sector, **Monica Perez Lobo, Vice President of Toyota Motor Europe**, reiterated Toyota's commitment to achieve carbon neutrality in all European production plants by 2030 and outlined their strategy to collaborate and coordinate with all suppliers to enhance the scope for sustainable manufacturing along their value chain.

Offering us insights from the European Commission side, **Matthias Kuom, Expert on Digital Transformation**, pointed out the European Union's unprecedented efforts to ensure a proper implementation of the green and digital transformation, and expressed the need to fully consider the various interests of the European manufacturing sector in doing so. He is certain that European data spaces will drive governance.



In his official closing remarks, the **Secretary General of CECIMO, Filip Geerts**, reiterated the challenges and opportunities that the green and digital transformation present. He additionally stressed the fundamental role of the machine tool manufacturing sector as a potential enabler of sustainability that provides the necessary production technologies to reduce the environmental impact of manufacturing.