



SWISSMEM

Swiss Machine
Tool Manufacturers

Work programme

CECIMO SPRING MEETINGS

**6–9 June 2026
Basel**





François Duval, President CECIMO & Managing Director, United Machining France SAS

Dear Delegates, Partners and Guests,

On behalf of CECIMO, I am delighted to welcome you to Basel for the Spring Meetings 2026, powered by United Machining Solutions.

With its rich history, international outlook and vibrant cultural life, Basel provides an excellent setting for both the meetings and the accompanying programme. Under the theme “Advanced Manufacturing: Securing Europe’s Global Competitiveness”, the CECIMO Spring Meetings will bring our community together to exchange views on the key issues shaping our sector, from advanced manufacturing and defence to competitiveness and market intelligence. Over the coming days, we look forward to productive workshops, valuable exchanges and the opportunity to further strengthen cooperation within our European machine tool community.

I would like to thank all participants for joining us and wish you a successful, enjoyable and inspiring stay in Basel.

François Duval
CECIMO President



cecimo
European Association of Manufacturing Technologies



SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2026

WORK PROGRAMME

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

11.00 → President's meeting (Presidents only)

12.00 → Light lunch for the Board

13.00 → Board meeting (Board only)

15.30 → Free time

17.30 → Welcome Reception

18.00 → Welcome Address

18.10 → Keynote Speech

18.50 – 21.30 → Welcome Dinner

SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2026

WORK PROGRAMME

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

9.15 – 16.00 → Social Programme

LOCATIONS IN MÖVENPICK HOTEL BASEL

Welcome Reception / Keynote → Foyer Topaz (2F)

Welcome Dinner → Executive Lounge & Terrace (4F)

Monday Workshops → Ballsaal 2/3, Basement (-2F)

Monday Lunch → Restaurant PURO (1F)

Tuesday Workshop → Ballsaal 2/3, Basement (-2F)

Farewell Lunch → Ballsaal 1, Basement (-2F)

MONDAY 8 JUNE 2026

WORK PROGRAMME

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

8.30 → Welcome coffee

9.00 → Introduction and Opening Remarks

9.10 → AI on the Factory Floor

10.50 → Coffee break

11.10 → Next Dimension of Manufacturing

12.30 → Lunch at Restaurant PURO

14.00 → Machine Tools as enabler of Defence

15.20 → Coffee break

15.35 – 16.55 → Competing with China

18.10 – 23.15 → Social Programme

TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2026

WORK PROGRAMME

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

8.30 → Welcome coffee

9.00 → Economic Committee

10.30 → Coffee break

11.00 → Open Forum

11.45 → General Assembly

12.45 – 14.00 → Farewell lunch

Keynote Speech

18.10 – 18.50, Topaz (2F)



Steffen Riegas

Partner at Herzog & de Meuron

Steffen Riegas graduated from the Muenster School of Architecture in 2007. Prior to his collaboration with Herzog & de Meuron, he gained experience working with UNStudio in Amsterdam and 3XN in Copenhagen. He joined Herzog & de Meuron in 2010 as an architect in the Digital Technologies Group (DT), which supports project teams with the integration of digital tools in design and building processes. Working in this role on various projects, he was particularly involved in the realization of the Messe Basel New Hall and the Nouveau Stade de Bordeaux. After two years gaining experience in other international offices he became Head of Digital Technologies in September 2014, and was appointed Associate Partner in 2020. Steffen continues to lecture at universities and conducts workshops on the application of digital design tools in the architectural practice.

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Introduction

9.00 – 9.10, Ballsaal 2/3, Basement (-2F)

Each session will open with a 15-minute keynote address to set the scene and introduce the main themes. This will be followed by a series of short five-minute interventions from each speaker, and a brief moderated panel discussion which will "spill-over" to an interactive Q&A with the delegates.

Introduction



Damir Glas

Director of Communications CECIMO

Damir Glas is Director of Communications at CECIMO, the European Association of Manufacturing Technologies. With more than a decade of experience in public affairs and strategic communications, he has built a career across journalism, broadcasting, public relations, EU institutions, and the private sector.

Opening Remarks



François Duval

President CECIMO, Managing Director, United Machining France SAS

François Duval holds a Master of Engineering from ICAM Lille, specialising in Mechanics. Since July 2020, he has been Managing Director of United Machining France. He has spent nearly 30 years with the Fives Group, during which he has held senior international roles and built more than 25 years of experience in the machine tool industry. Since 2023, he has served as President of CECIMO.



AI on the Shop Floor

9.10 – 10.50, Ballsaal 2/3, Basement (-2F)

Industrial AI is rapidly transforming manufacturing, offering major potential for greater productivity, flexibility, quality and resilience. This workshop with panel will explore what is needed to move from isolated use cases to large-scale industrial deployment, and how industry, policymakers, technology providers and standardisation actors can work together to ensure that AI integration in manufacturing is competitive, secure and supported by the right policy, standards and cybersecurity framework.

Keynote:

AI on the Shop Floor:

A Big Bang or an incremental approach?



Michael Horn

COO United Machining Solutions

Michael Horn (55) has been COO of UNITED MACHINING SOLUTIONS MANAGEMENT AG, a worldwide leading manufacturer of machine tools with sales revenues of more than USD 1.5 billion and around 5,000 employees, since 2025. Previously he was a Member of the Executive Board of DMG MORI AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT, Bielefeld, and Managing Director of several international mechanical engineering companies.

Panel Discussion with:



Jorge Oliveira

Deputy Local Head GI, Stäubli AG

After completing his degree in automation engineering, Jorge Oliveira spent seven years working on robotic automation solutions at Precitrame Machine SA. He then spent four years managing a polishing department in the watchmaking industry before joining Stäubli in 2018. His skills, experience, and knowledge of the Metal market naturally led him to his current role, where he supports clients in their robotics projects.



Lukas Keller

CEO, Swiss Association for Standardization

Lukas Keller has led the Swiss Association for Standardization (SNV) since May 2025, focusing on strategy and development to strengthen standards in Switzerland. Previously, he worked in international printing and software firms. His personal motto is: "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right."



Guy Florian Seka

Manufacturing Security Lead, Deloitte Consulting AG

Guy Florian Seka is Sr. Manager and Manufacturing Security Lead at Deloitte Switzerland with 12+ years of experience leading OT security initiatives across production sites. Certified in GICSP and IEC 62443, he drives strategic roadmaps, risk reduction, and operational continuity, combining technical depth with business value without compromising productivity.



Moderator: Vincenzo Belletti

Director of EU Public Affairs, CECIMO

Vincenzo Belletti is Director of EU Public Affairs at CECIMO, leading policy and advocacy activities. He has 15+ years of experience in EU policy and project management across consultancy, industry associations, and the European Parliament, and holds a Master's in International Relations from the University of Napoli Federico II.

Next Dimension of Manufacturing

11.10 – 12.30, Ballsaal 2/3, Basement (-2F)

Additive manufacturing can support the transition into a new industrial production dimension, enabling more flexible, integrated and digitally driven manufacturing systems. This workshop will explore how the advanced integration of AM can improve specific manufacturing workflows and what is needed to scale industrial applications. The discussion will focus on the opportunities, challenges and key enablers required to fully integrate AM into the advanced manufacturing ecosystems and strengthen Europe's industrial competitiveness.

Keynote:

Advanced integration in manufacturing by AM



Klas Boivie

Founder, Addivantage

Klas Boivie has been working in additive manufacturing (AM) since 1997. For the last 20 years research activities have been focused on industrialisation of AM technology, including the integration of AM processes in industrial manufacturing systems. He is an active contributor to the development of international AM standards through ISO/TC261, and ASTM F42. He is presently active as an independent consultant for AM in industrial applications.

Panel Discussion with:



Adriaan Spierings

Secretary General, Swiss AM Group

Adriaan Spierings studied Mechanical Engineering and Business Administration at ETH Zurich. After working in the industry and research institutions, he built up an internationally recognized research group on metal AM, which he was leading for 19 years. He initiated the foundation of the Swiss AM group SAMG at Swissmem and joined Swissmem in 2023 to lead the SAMG, in addition to the Semiconductor and Medical Manufacturing sectors (founded in 2025).



Virgilio García

Chairman of CECIMO AM Committee, ADDIMAT President

Virgilio García is CEO of NOVAINDEF, President of ADDIMAT, and Chairman of the Additive Manufacturing Committee at CECIMO. An engineer with international experience in industry and research, he studied Electronic Engineering in Oviedo and Mechatronics in Karlsruhe, with further training at MIT. He previously held roles at Siemens, PLANSEE Group and ArcelorMittal, where he led the company's global additive manufacturing strategy.



Christoph Plüss

CTO United Machining Solutions

Mechanical Engineer (dipl. Ing. FH / M.Sc.) with over 30 years of experience in the development of machine tools. Joined UNITED GRINDING in 2009 and initiated several pioneering innovations including laser machining of cutting tools, additive manufacturing and digitization of the entire machine portfolio. Appointed CTO of UNITED GRINDING in 2018, leader of the digital C.O.R.E. initiative and, since July 2025, serves as CTO of the newly established UNITED MACHINING SOLUTIONS.

Moderator: Adriaan Spierings

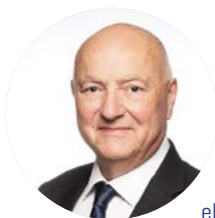
Machine Tools

A Strategic Enabler of Defence

14.00 – 15.20, Ballsaal 2/3, Basement (-2F)

As defence rises on the political agenda, industrial readiness becomes increasingly strategic. This workshop will look at the role of machine tool manufacturers in the defence ecosystem, what the defence sector expects from industrial suppliers and how industry, policymakers and defence stakeholders can collaborate more effectively to realise the required adaptation of the European manufacturing set-up in a speedy manner and strengthen readiness in the current geopolitical context.

Keynote: Defence potential and requirements



Peter Huber
Entrepreneur

Peter Huber worked 30 years for Meggitt. His division – 12 companies, 3000 employees, developed and produced sensors and electronics for civil and military aerospace. He left Meggitt in 2017 to focus on direct investments and board positions. Peter served as a militia officer from 1984 to 2024 and holds degrees (BA, MBA) and a postgraduate in strategic business leadership. He is pursuing a Master's degree in History at the University of Zurich.

Panel Discussion with:



Jürgen Böhler-Royett Marciano
Head of Export Controls/Industrial Products, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs

Jürgen Böhler-Royett Marciano joined the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) in 2001, where he has been responsible for licensing and export control policy related to industrial goods. In addition to traditional dual-use goods such as machine tools, his work also covers emerging technologies.



Barbara Colombo
CEO, Ficep spa

Barbara Colombo is CEO of FICEP S.p.A., a third-generation family-owned leader in machine tools for steel construction, sheet metalworking, and hot forging. From 2020 to 2024, she served as President of UCIMU–SISTEMI PER PRODURRE. Since 2019, she has been part of the Italian delegation to CECIMO and has served on the CECIMO Board since December 2024. She holds a degree in corporate finance from Bocconi University, Milan.



Alejandro González
Defence Technologies Project Manager, DG DEFIS, European Commission

Alejandro González is an Industrial Engineer with 20+ years' experience in manufacturing (Talga), infrastructure (Acciona), and defence (SPA, AIRBUS Military). Since joining the European Commission in 2018, he has worked on steelmaking technologies at DG RTD and the Research Executive Agency, and now manages defence industry programmes at DG DEFIS.



Moderator: Matthias Coelestin Zoller
Secretary General, SWISS ASD

Matthias C. Zoller is Secretary General of SWISS ASD, the Swiss Association of the Security, Defence and Aerospace Industries of Switzerland, Deputy Head of the Swiss Delegation to the NATO Industrial Advisory Group (NIAG). A Colonel of the General Staff, he also serves on several boards and is founder and owner of Zoller Advisory LLC.

Competing with China

What's next for Europe's machine tool industry?

15.35 – 16.55, Ballsaal 2/3, Basement (-2F)

China has rapidly reshaped the global manufacturing landscape, with important implications for the European machine tool industry. Its growing capabilities in industrial production, its increasingly strong domestic supply base, and its ability to compete at scale are creating new strategic pressures for European manufacturers. The discussion will focus on the pressure posed by emerging Chinese manufacturers, the broader impact on manufacturing ecosystems, the risks linked to supply chains, market access, and industrial positioning.

Keynote:

China Quo vadis – Current manufacturing policies and effects from the 15th Five-Year Plan



Markus Herrmann (陈瑞华)
Co-Founder & Managing Director,
China Macro Group

Markus is a cross-cultural China analyst and strategy consultant, advising European business on China's political economy and strategic decision-making regarding business engagement in the Chinese market and collaborating with Chinese companies. Prior to CMG, Markus worked as Government Affairs Director with Bayer in China and as Management Consultant with Boston Consulting Group in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Zurich. Markus holds law degrees with focus on international- and WTO-law.

Panel Discussion with:



Roger Gschwend
Ambassador,
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs

Roger Gschwend has headed SECO's World Trade Division and served as Federal Council Delegate for Trade Agreements since 2024. Previously, he led SECO's International Economic Law Unit and held roles at ABB Switzerland, EFTA, Swiss Customs, and the European Commission. He studied at the Universities of Zurich (Law), St. Gallen (Mediation), and London (LL.M. in Economic Regulation).



Thomas Schneider
Managing Director at Trumpf
Werkzeugmaschinen SE + Co.

Thomas Schneider is Managing Director of Research + Development at Trumpf Werkzeugmaschinen SE + Co. KG. He studied mechanical engineering at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and earned a doctorate in electrical engineering materials. Before joining Trumpf, he held industry roles and worked as a product development expert at McKinsey.



Xabier Ortueta
CEO of AFM Cluster

Xabier Ortueta is CEO of AFM Cluster, which comprises eight associations. With 25 years of experience in manufacturing, he has held senior roles across associations, financial institutions, and international sales. He is Chairman of IMH Campus, Vice-Chairman of CSMC China, and co-organiser of the BIEMH fair. He studied Business Administration at Deusto University and holds a Master's in Marketing and International Commerce.



Moderator: Marcus Burton
Special advisor for Mazak and Chairman
of CECIMO Economic Committee

Marcus Burton joined Yamazaki Mazak as Group Business Development Director for Europe in 2005, became Managing Director of Yamazaki Mazak U.K. Ltd in 2007, and European Group Managing Director in 2010. A former President and Board member of the Manufacturing Technologies Association, he is now Special Advisor for Mazak and Chairman of CECIMO's Economic Committee.

Economic Committee

9.00 – 10.30, Ballsaal 2/3, Basement (-2F)

The session will open with a 15-minute keynote address focusing on the current macroeconomic environment, followed by a zoomed-in presentation on the current situation in the Swiss Tech Industry before a deep-dive into the situation as it presents itself in the Machine Tool Business. All inputs will be evaluated in a fireside chat opening up into a moderated Q&A with the delegates.

Keynote: Trump, Tariffs, Tankers



Claude Maurer
Chief Economist, BAK

Claude Maurer has 18 years of experience at Credit Suisse, most recently as Chief Economist Switzerland, where he was responsible for macroeconomic analysis of the Swiss economy. Prior to that, he headed the Macro Analysis and Strategy department. In a previous role, he was a Senior Economist at BAK Economics AG, focusing on industry analysis and econometric modelling. Before his career in economics, he was an active professional sailor and competed in the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

Speakers:



Jean-Philippe Kohl
Vice President, Swissmem

He received a degree in Economics from the University of Zurich and a PhD from the University of Basel. He worked as a Research Associate in the Department of Economic Policy at Migros Genossenschafts-Bund (1996 to 2000) and served as the Deputy Secretary General of the Department of Finance of the Canton of Bern (2000 to 2008). He is currently the Deputy Director and Head of Economic Policy at Swissmem.



Marcus Burton
Special advisor for Mazak and Chairman of CECIMO Economic Committee



Tommaso Lolli
Economist, CECIMO

Tommaso Lolli is Economist at CECIMO, the European Association of Manufacturing Technologies. In this role, he is responsible for analysing economic trends, market developments, and key indicators affecting the manufacturing technology sector. His work supports industry understanding of the economic environment and the main issues shaping the sector today.

Picture Sources:
– Herzog & de Meuron: p. 6
– Mövenpick Hotel Basel: p. 7
– Skyline: Shutterstock
– Gear illustration: iStock photo



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