

### The European Composites and Pultrusion Industry: Market Developments and Sustainability

Dr. Elmar Witten Volker Mathes

**EPTA** 

AVK







#### Introduction











#### **About the EPTA**

- EPTA The European Pultrusion Technology Association
- Created in 1989 by leading Pultruders in Europe
- Since 2006 EPTA is under the umbrella of the AVK
- > 40 member companies across the whole value chain of pultrusion technology and production













#### **About the AVK**

- Founded in 1924
- Members across the entire value chain of reinforced plastics
- More than 250 (inter)national member companies (1/4 non German)
- > 1700 personal contacts inside the companies
- "Full service provider for our members"







# The European Composites and Pultrusion Industry

Market Developments





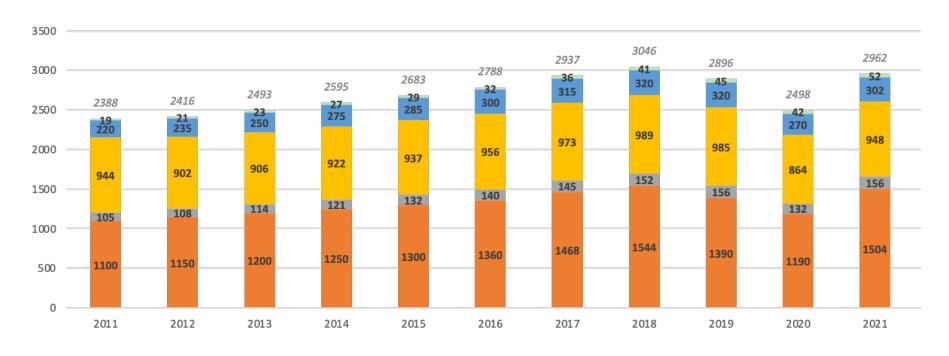
#### **The Worldwide Composites Market - Facts**

- Worldwide Composites Market 2022
  - 12,7 million tons
  - Increase compared to 2021 (12,1 million tons) ≈ 5 %
- Different regional developments
  - Market share Asia ≈ 50 %
  - Market share Americas & Europe ≈ each ca. 25 % of world market
- 95 % of the Reinforcements are Glass Fibres
- Carbon Fibre Reinforced Plastics: Market share of 1-2 %
- Shortfibre Reinforced Thermoplastics are the biggest market segment
- Thermosets are still the biggest group in the field of Long- and Endlessfibre systems





#### The European Composites\* Market in kt (2021)



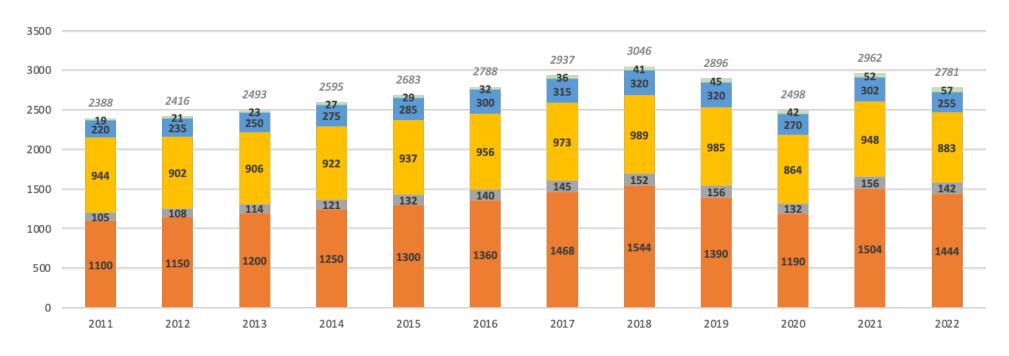
- Short Fibre Reinforced Thermoplastics
- Long-/Endless Fibre Reinforced Thermoplastics (LFT/GMT/CFRTP)
- Long-/Endless Fibre Reinforced Thermosets
- Non-Crimp-Fabrics
- Carbon Fibre Reinforced Plastics

<sup>\*</sup> Not included: Natural Fibre Reinforced Plastics





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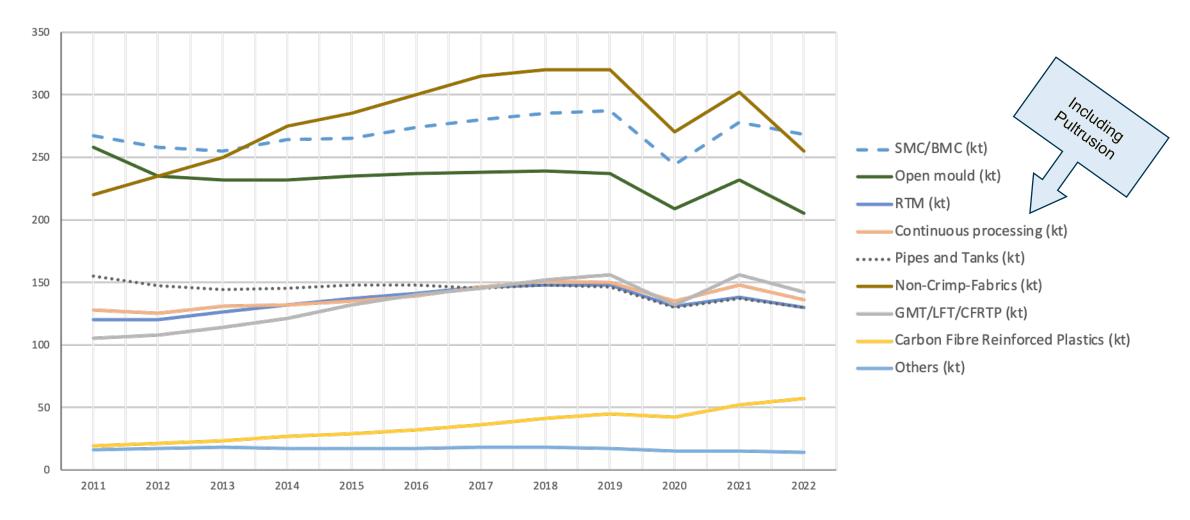
#### Glass Fibre Reinforcements – Material Systems







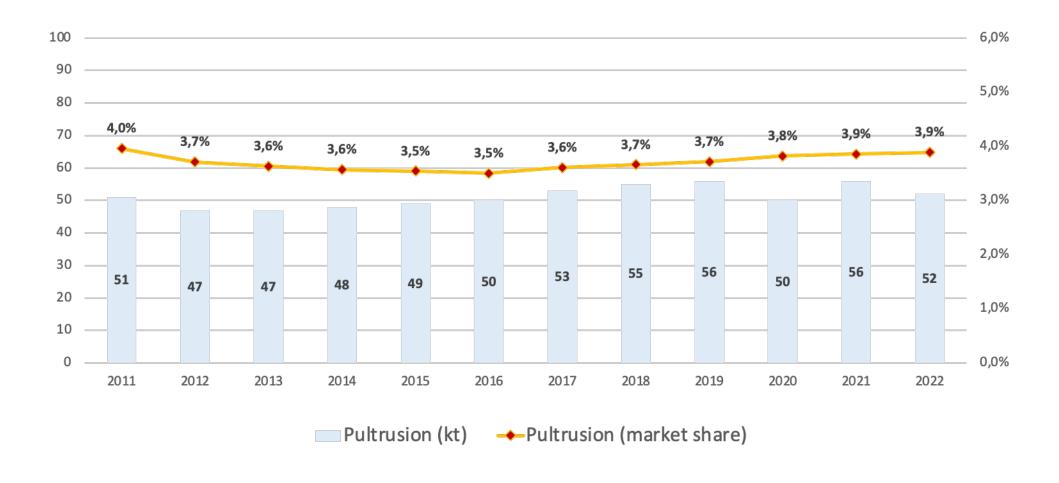
#### **European GFRP & CFRP Market Development (kt)**







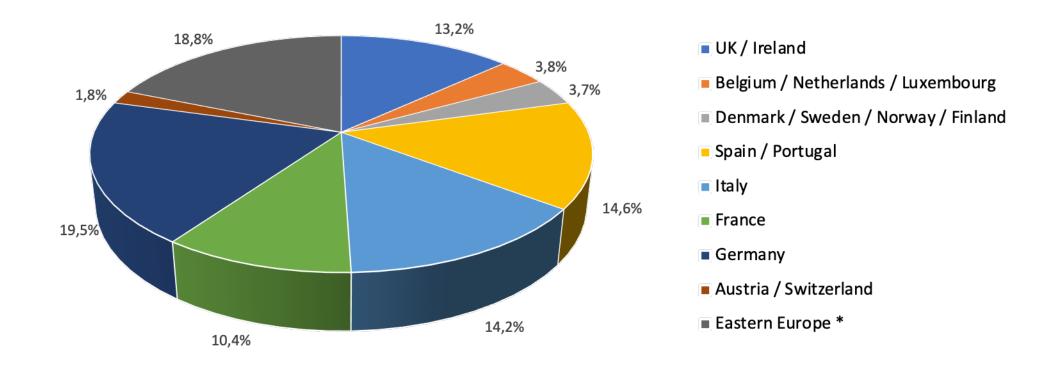
#### Market Development Pultrusion Industry (kt)







#### **European GFRP & CFRP Market Development (kt)**

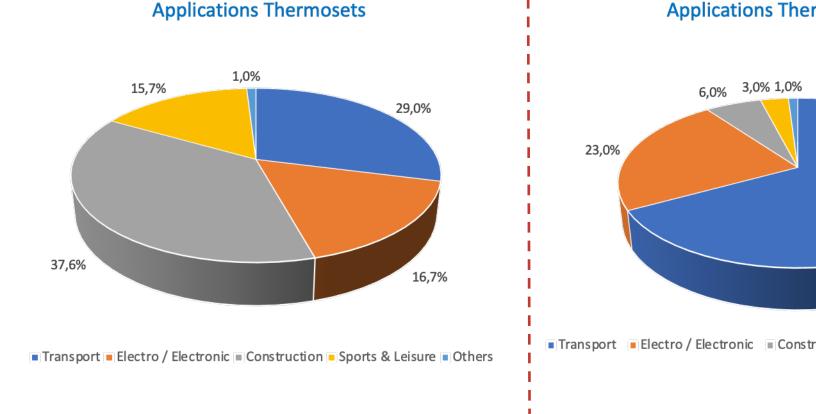


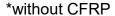
<sup>\*</sup> Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia





#### **European Composites\* Market - Applications**

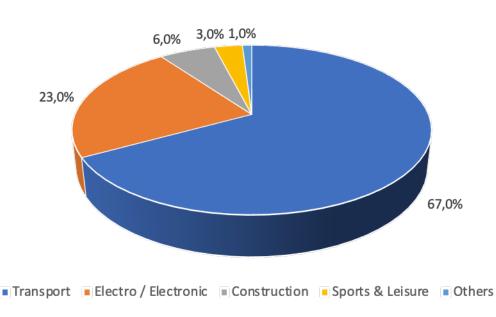




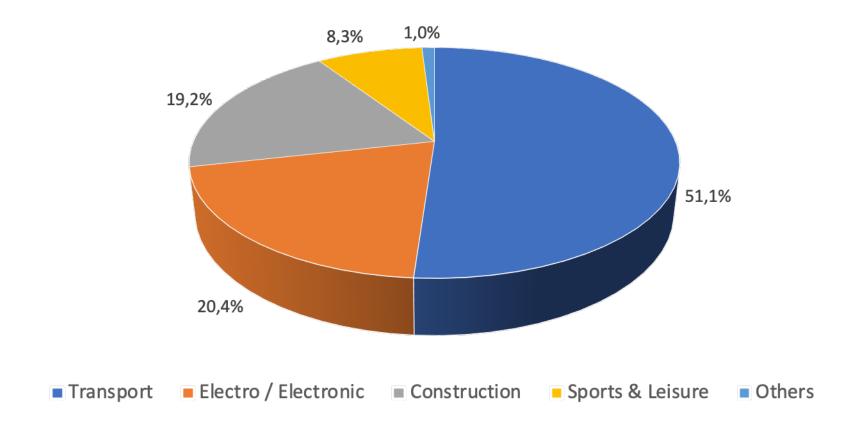


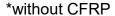


#### **Applications Thermoplastics**



#### **European Composites\* Market - Applications**

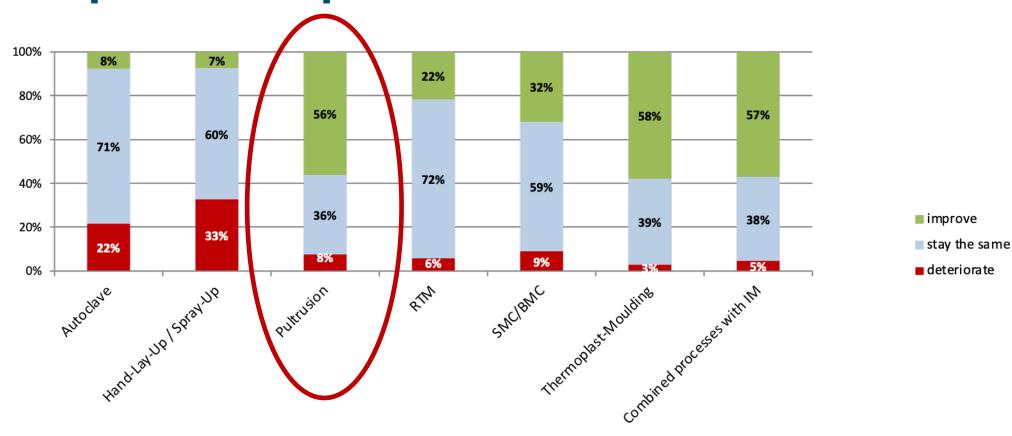








#### **European Composites Market – Trends**



Source: Composites Germany - Composites Market Survey 2/2022 - 100% missing data resulting from rounding inaccuracies





# The European Composites and Pultrusion Industry

Sustainability





## Composites Production in Europe – it's challenging!







#### **European Composites Market – Trends**

- Enormous increase of prices in the last month (logistics, energy prices)
- General political situation remains tense High uncertainties
- Transportation: lowest admission rates in 30 years (passenger cars)
- Redesign-Thinking in (e-)mobility offers a lot of chances
- Construction market stable Reaction of construction industry to market changes is medium-term
- High potential for composites esp. for construction & mobility applications
- Material advantages (beneath lightweight potential) become better known
- LCA-Advantages in several Applications





#### **European Composites Market – Trends**

- Enormous increase of prices in the last month (logistics, energy prices)
- General political situation remains tense High uncertainties
- Transpo Sustainablity is becoming a core topic for ger cars)
- Redesig the future of composites material!
- Construction market stable Reaction of construction industry to market changes is medium-term
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#### Sustainability becoming a core topic

- "Lightweight construction" as a central topic in the mobility sector is on the decline.
- Composites are often chosen for other/additional properties The overall concept of a product/component must "work".
- Sustainability is increasingly becoming a fundamental decision for or against the use of specific materials - terms are often not clearly defined.
- The political pressure to act is increasing enormously due to national or European-wide targets - concerns central areas of industry.









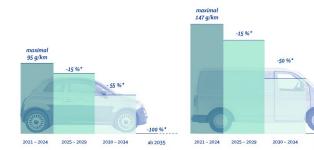






#### Sustainability becoming a core topic

- Political initiatives (e.g.)
  - European "Green Deal" a package of policy initiatives designed to put the EU on track to make a green transition, ultimately achieving its goal of becoming carbonneutral by 2050.
  - "Fit for 55" EU's 2030 goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to at least 55% below 1990 levels by 2030 Climate neutrality by 2050
    - Proposals to amend existing legislation on climate, energy and transport
    - Among others: Stricter CO<sub>2</sub> emission standards for new passenger cars
  - Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) auditing will be mandatory from 2024 (environmental, social and governance factors)



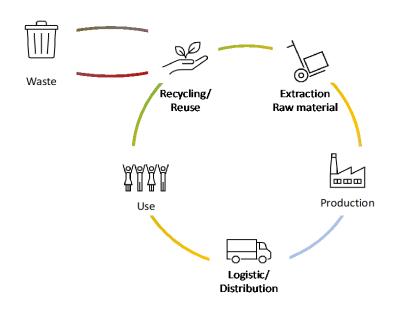
Source: Council of the European Union https://www.consilium.europa.eu/





#### Sustainability becoming a core topic

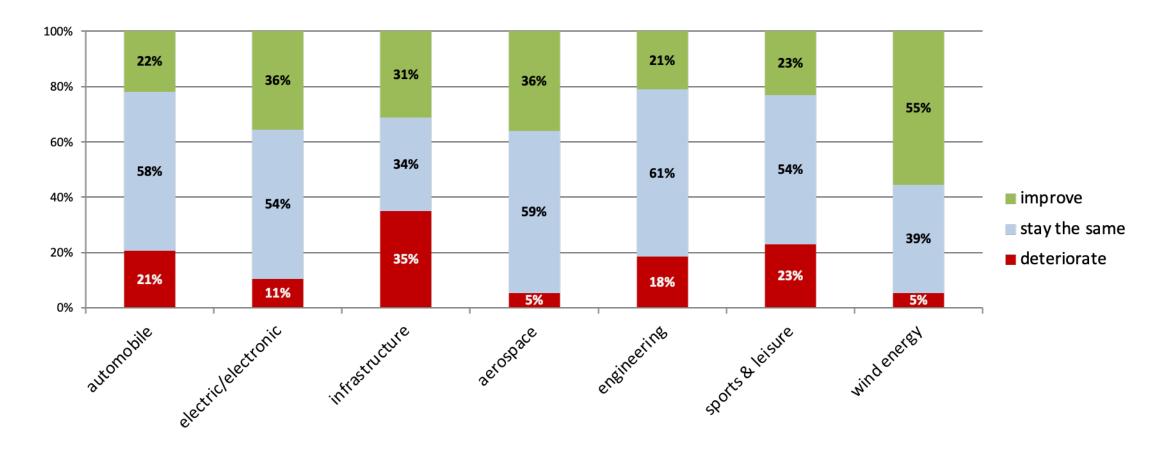
- Sustainability/recycling
  - Sustainability as a core issue becomes an important growth driver
  - "Overemphasis" on recycling vs. LCA
  - Reusability vs. recycling
  - Unclear definition of "circular economy" for composites
  - Different regulations, laws and opportunities
  - Lack of waste codes
  - Ecology and economy only work together
  - R&D vs. industrial scale (TRL)
  - •







#### Sustainability – Challenges & Chances



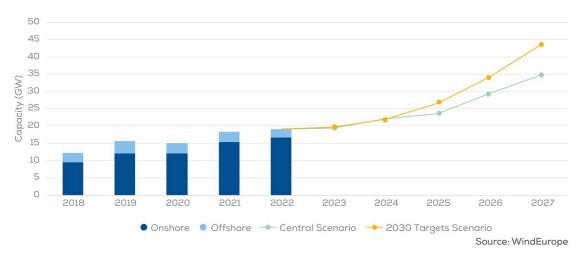
Source: Composites Germany – Market Survey 2/2022





#### Sustainability – Challenges & Chances

- Europe built 19 GW of new wind energy capacity in 2022.. That's 4% up on 2021. But it's
  much less than what's needed for the EU's 2030 goals. (reducing greenhouse gas
  emissions to at least 55% below 1990 levels by 2030)
- The EU's climate and energy security goals require it to build over 30GW of new wind farms every year to 2030



Source: Windeurope.org; https://windeurope.org/intelligence-platform/product/wind-energy-in-europe-2022-statistics-and-the-outlook-for-2023-2027/





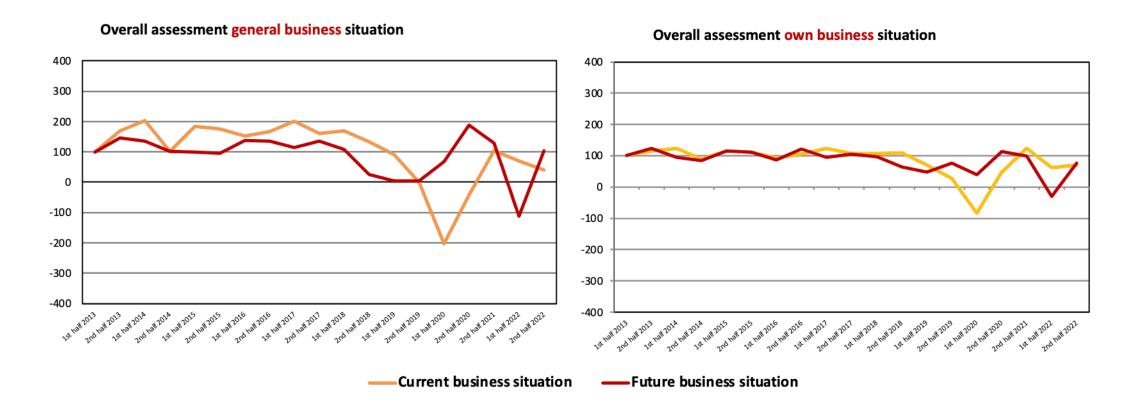
#### Sustainability – Challenges & Chances

- Central advantages of Composites in sustainability
  - Transport Low CO2 emissions material & use phase
  - Construction extension of maintenance intervals & very long service life
    - Reduction of costs & emissions
  - Material Very high intrinsic value even after first use phase
    - High chances for open loop solutions
- Composites are on a good way to the future!





### **Industry expectations - Composites Development Index**



Note: The Composites Index 1st half 2021 could not be generated due to a data breach! – index: 1.half 2013= 100; Source: Composites Germany – Market Survey





#### Thanks a lot for your attention!

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