

# EQUIPLAST

The International Plastics  
and Rubber Event

2-5 June 2026  
[www.equiplast.com](http://www.equiplast.com)



## Fact sheet

### Equiplast 2026 The International Plastics and Rubber Event

**Dates**

2-5 June 2026

**Edition**

14

**Frequency**

Every 3 years

**Sphere**

Professional

**Year of the first edition**

1987

**Held at the same time**

Expoquimia, The International Chemistry Event and Process Industries

**Location**

Hall 3. Fira Barcelona's Gran Via venue.  
Av. Joan Carles I, 64  
08908 L'Hospitalet de Llobregat

**Timetable**

2-4 June: 09:30 am to 6:30 pm  
5 June: 09:30 am to 4:00 pm

**Stand surface**

12,350m<sup>2</sup> net (*Equiplast only*) +14% compared to 2023  
26,000m<sup>2</sup> net (*together with Expoquimia*) +35% compared to 2023

**Exhibitors**

328 (*Equiplast only*) +15% compared to 2023  
800 (*together with Expoquimia*)

**Brands represented**

500 (*Equiplast only*) +  
Over 1.500 (*together with Expoquimia*)

**Visitors**

21.000 (*joint forecast with Expoquimia*)

**Activities**

50

**Speakers**

100

### Main activities

- **Rethinking Plastic Congress:** Presentation of success stories around four axes: circular economy, recycling, advanced materials and digitalisation
- **Rethinking Plastic Showroom:** A display of products made from sustainable, recycled or renewably sourced plastic.
- **Rethinking Plastic Awards** (4 June): For the most innovative products at the exhibition
- **Equiplast Fest** (4 June): Afterwork for exhibitors and visitors.
- **Presentation of the Sector Report on Plastics in Spain** (3 June)
- **Guided tours by the CEP** on efficiency and sustainability in machinery and processes, new materials and innovation transfer.
- **Equiplast recognitions** (4 June) for the careers of companies, organisations and professionals in the plastics industry

### Side events

- Conferences, seminars and round-table discussions organised by industry bodies such as AVEP, CEP, ANAIP, PLASTICS EUROPE and AEQT
- Presentation by the World Union of Plastics Associations (WUPA)
- Presentation of the 2025 Liderpack Awards for packaging and POS displays. Organised by Hispack and the Graphispac Association (2 June)

### Organized by

Fira de Barcelona

### President of the Organizing Committee

Bernd Roegele

### Director

Xavier Pascual

### Media Relations

Maria Dolores Herranz / Josep Lluís Mérida

Tel. 93 233 2541 – 2166

[mdherranz@firabarcelona.com](mailto:mdherranz@firabarcelona.com)

[jmerida@firabarcelona.com](mailto:jmerida@firabarcelona.com)

### Online Press registration [here](#)

Possibility of being accredited in person during the days of the event in the press room of the Gran Via venue (Hall Europa. Plant -1) presenting the required documentation that certifies that you work or collaborate in a means of communication.

### Photos (2023 edition) [here](#)

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## Equiplast drives the transformation of plastics with a focus on the circular economy

- With 400 exhibiting companies (+15%) and a new congress addressing sustainability, innovation and digitalisation in the sector
- Equiplast vuelve a coincidir con Expoquimia, reforzando las sinergias entre química y transformación de materiales

After 40 years of trajectory, Equiplast is reinforcing its position as a leading platform for the plastics industry at a time of profound transformation. Organised by Fira de Barcelona, the event will take place from 2 to 5 June 2026 alongside Expoquimia, bringing together around 400 exhibiting companies from 18 countries—an increase of 15% on the previous edition—and expanding its offering with a congress programme focused on circularity, recycling, advanced materials and digitalisation.

Hall 3 of the Gran Via venue will showcase extrusion and plastics processing machinery, automation systems and equipment, raw materials and additives, peripherals, parts and components, as well as a strong presence of the mould and die sector. Environmental and recycling solutions will also play a key role in the commercial offer, alongside software applications, semi-finished products and specialised services, highlighting the sector's ongoing technological and sustainable evolution.

Exhibitors include companies such as AGI, Alimatic, Albis, Ar Sistemas, Arburg, Bada, BMB, Centrotécnica, Comercial Douma, Coscollola, Engel, Epsan, Gravipes, Guztex Polymers, Haitian Iberica, Hasco, Husyca, Hydropyc, Imvolca, Mecasonic, Mircan, Negribossi, Netstal, Pena Grup, Promak Solutions, Protecnic, Raorsa, Tecnopol Snetor, Ultrapolymers, Unnox Group, WTS-Wapf Technological Solutions, Wittmann and Wursi Group.

### Strong international outlook

Equiplast's international dimension continues to grow. Nearly one third of participating companies will come from abroad, underlining the event's appeal to machinery manufacturers, converters and industrial solution providers specialising in plastics and rubber. Key countries represented include China, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Austria, Türkiye, France and the Netherlands.

The 2026 edition will further strengthen this international reach through its hosted buyers programme, developed in collaboration with ICEX Spain Trade and Investment, which will attract professionals from Türkiye, Algeria, Mexico, Colombia and Guatemala with specific investment projects.

### Rethinking plastic

At a time when the sector faces major challenges in reconciling industrial functionality with sustainability, Equiplast is placing the spotlight on the development of more responsible solutions.

In this context, the show will present a report on the plastics industry in Spain, positioning the sector as a key economic pillar, with a turnover of close to €29 billion—equivalent to 2% of national GDP—and more than 107,000 direct jobs. The report also highlights aggregate growth of 17.9% in recent years and Spain's leading position in recycling capacity within Europe.

Against this backdrop, show president Bernd Roegele comments: *"Plastics are under strong regulatory and social pressure, but they also offer a vast field for innovation. The future lies in designing more sustainable materials and processes, investing in the circular economy and*

*better communicating the value of plastics as an essential material across multiple industries.”*

Show director Xavier Pascual adds: *“Equiplast reflects the transformation underway in the industry and serves as a key platform to connect innovation, business and knowledge around sustainability and competitiveness.”*

Fully aligned with these challenges, one of the main new features will be the launch of the Rethinking Plastic congress, running over the four days of the show with around 50 sessions and 100 speakers. The programme will be structured around four major themes: circular economy, recycling, advanced materials and digitalisation, showcasing real-world case studies and best practices from companies using plastic solutions.

The opening day will focus on sustainability and the circular economy, with sessions covering packaging reuse, waste recovery, industrial symbiosis and the regulatory framework, including topics such as microplastics management and pellet regulations. Participating organisations include the Spanish Plastics Industry Platform (ESPLÁSTICOS), the Spanish Plastics Manufacturers Association (Anaip), PlasticsEurope, the Chemical Business Association of Tarragona (AEQT), the Catalan Waste Cluster (CREC), and companies such as Veolia and Reyde Grupo Armando Álvarez.

Subsequent sessions will address mechanical and chemical recycling, new materials and digitalisation as a driver of competitiveness, with contributions from organisations such as AIMPLAS, the Gaiker Foundation, ANARPLA, Eurecat, Indresmat and the Spanish Plastics Centre (CEP), among others.

The Rethinking Plastic area will also feature an exhibition of products made from sustainable, recycled or renewable plastics, along with a dedicated networking space designed to foster knowledge exchange and business opportunities. The showcase will include around ten real-world applications developed by companies and technology centres, demonstrating the potential of circular plastics in sectors such as packaging, construction, mobility and urban design. The most innovative solutions will be recognised with the Rethinking Plastic Award.

### **Best-practice recognition**

Equiplast 2026 will also highlight industry best practices through its Best-in-Class recognition, which this year will be awarded to SEAT & CUPRA for their circular strategy in the production of components using new materials and biopolymers. The award will be presented at the Expoquimia Gala Dinner alongside the Best-in-Class awards in the chemical sector, which this year go to Moeve, L’Oréal Groupe, Lefance and Almirall.

In addition, Equiplast will host the Liderpack Awards ceremony—recognising excellence in packaging and point-of-sale displays—organised by Graphispack Association and the Hispack trade fair, as well as tributes to companies, organisations and professionals for their contribution to the sector.

Finally, the Spanish Plastics Centre (CEP) will organise a series of guided tours around Equiplast, giving visitors the opportunity to discover solutions showcased at exhibitors’ stands related to efficiency and sustainability in machinery and processes, new materials and innovation transfer.

### **Co-location with Expoquimia**

Equiplast will once again be held alongside Expoquimia, the International Meeting of Chemistry and Process Industries, further strengthening synergies between the two sectors. This cross-sector offering—linking chemistry, materials and industrial processing—reflects their growing interdependence in areas such as innovation and the circular economy.

Together, the two events will feature 800 exhibitors and are expected to attract around 21,000 professionals, consolidating Barcelona as one of Southern Europe’s leading industrial hubs.

### **Barcelona, May 2026**

## Equiplast 2026 launches congress focused on recycling, materials and digitalization

- *Rethinking Plastic* will include nearly 50 sessions with a hundred speakers and twenty entities from the plastic ecosystem
- The space will be completed with a display of products made of circular plastic, as well as a networking area

From 2 to 5 June, Equiplast will launch its own congress within the *Rethinking Plastic* activities area, where nearly 50 sessions will be held with a hundred speakers and the participation of the main organisations in the Spanish plastics ecosystem. The programme will be structured around four axes: circular economy, recycling, advanced materials and digitalisation. The space will be completed with a display of products made of sustainable plastic, and with a networking area designed to promote exchange between professionals.

The Rethinking Plastic congress area seeks to give visibility to good practices and real cases starring companies using plastic industry solutions in different sectors. These experiences will show the impact of innovation on circularity, efficiency and the development of new compounds. These will include Equiplast's *best-in-class* recognition, which will go to SEAT&CUPRA for its circular strategy in the production of automotive parts with new materials and biopolymers.

Sustainability and the circular economy will open the programme with a first day dedicated to progress towards more efficient and responsible production models. The Strategic Plan for the Plastics Sector will be presented, along with initiatives linked to the reuse of packaging, waste recovery and industrial symbiosis. An update of the regulatory framework will also be offered, with special attention to the management of microplastics and the new regulations on pellets, a key piece in the international OCS (*Operation Clean Sweep*) program, aimed at preventing their loss and reducing their environmental impact.

Among other entities and organizations, the following entities and organizations will participate in this block: the Spanish Plastics Industry Platform (ESPLÁSTICOS); the Spanish Association of Plastics Manufacturers (Anaip); the Association of European Plastics Manufacturers (PlasticsEurope); the Tarragona Chemical Business Association (AEQT); the Waste Cluster of Catalonia (CREC), or the companies Veolia and Reyde Grupo Armando Álvarez.

### Recycling technologies and new materials

The second day will focus on innovations applied to recovery processes, from new mechanical and chemical recycling solutions to technologies designed to improve the separation and treatment of materials in various industrial sectors. The programme will include a review of the different types of recycling, specific cases in packaging and automotive, as well as technologies aimed at treating complex waste, such as multilayers, to generate higher value compounds. The day will be completed with a global overview of the current state of recycling technologies and a monographic session on industrial scrap.

In addition to the AIMPLAS Plastic Technology Institute, the Gaiker Foundation; and the National Association of Plastic Recyclers (ANARPLA), some firms such as Enplast, or Fych Technologies and other organizations specialized in recovery.

The third day will be dedicated to the role of advanced plastic materials and their ability to transform processes and applications in multiple areas. The programme will address trends

in new materials, the development of biopolyurethanes aimed at improving energy efficiency in buildings, compostable solutions for agricultural use and examples of application in healthcare environments. Resource valorisation initiatives will also be presented, and a round table will be held focusing on the strategic impact of innovative materials in the value chain. The day will conclude with a session dedicated to biopolymers and biodegradability, followed by the Equiplast Awards to companies, professionals and entities outstanding for their contribution to the sector.

Eurecat, Indresmat, Bayer CropScience, B. Braun, Alier, CMAV and the Spanish Plastics Centre (CEP), among other agents in the value chain, will participate in this block.

### **Digitalization to gain competitiveness**

The last day of the congress will be dedicated to digital transformation as a lever for competitiveness, with content focused on process automation, robotisation, industrial traceability, the digital product passport and the integration of 4.0 technologies in the plastics value chain. The conference will also address digital solutions to improve energy efficiency and will offer an update on the state of digitalisation in the sector.

In addition to repeating Eurecat and CEP's intervention, the Spanish Association of Robotics and Automation (AER) and the Efficient Energy Cluster of Catalonia (CEEC), among other entities specialising in industrial innovation, will also participate in this section.

In addition, within the framework of the congress, Equiplast 2026 will present an expanded edition of its plastics sector study, prepared together with the main industry organizations. Based on data from more than 3,700 companies, it will offer an up-to-date snapshot of the sector in Spain and will incorporate for the first time a comparison with Europe to strengthen competitiveness and support decision-making.

Finally, the show will host a round table on the role of SCRAP (Collective System of Extended Producer Responsibility) to facilitate waste management in the new circular industry, in a context marked by the new packaging regulation in Spain.

### **Exhibition and networking**

The *Rethinking Plastic* space will also include an exhibition of a dozen every day or industrial products made from sustainable plastic, designed to showcase the variety of uses for a material with multiple life cycles. Within this framework, Equiplast will present the *Rethinking Plastic Awards*, which will distinguish the most innovative and sustainable products exhibited in this *showroom* in the categories of *packaging*, automotive and mobility, consumer product and textile, and construction and furniture.

For its part, the networking area will facilitate the exchange of ideas, the creation of synergies and the promotion of new projects between companies, technology centres and entities in the sector.

### **Showcase for innovation in plastics**

Equiplast will bring together 400 exhibitors from 18 countries, 15% more than in the previous edition, consolidating itself as the benchmark event for the plastics industry in the Iberian market and one of the main in southern Europe. It includes a wide range of business that covers extrusion and processing machinery, automation, raw materials, additives, moulds and dies, recycling and environmental solutions, as well as software, semi-finished products and specialist services.

The show will once again be held together with Expoquimia, the meeting of the chemistry and process industries, with the expectation of jointly exceeding 800 exhibitors and attracting some 21,000 professionals. Both industries work together to develop more sustainable materials and processes, promote the circular economy and add value to multiple sectors.

Barcelona, May 2026

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As a *best-in-class*, he will star in the Rethinking *Plastic presentations*

## Equiplast recognises SEAT & CUPRA for its plastic-friendly economy model

**Equiplast 2026 has recognised SEAT & CUPRA as a *best-in-class* for its circular strategy in the production of plastic components. This strategy seeks to reduce the environmental impact of production processes through lower consumption of virgin raw materials, the incorporation of recycled or renewable materials and the development of new solutions with a lower environmental impact.**

The award of this *best-in-class* award recognises SEAT & CUPRA's commitment to the sustainable transformation of its production processes through a circular strategy applied to plastics. In this area, the company promotes the use of recycled materials such as SEAQUAL® YARN, made from plastics recovered from the sea, or Dinamica® microfibre, made from 73% recycled polyester using a water-based process. The strategy is also based on design for recycling, promoting mono-material concepts that facilitate the recovery of components at the end of life and improve the circularity of the product.

Along the same lines, SEAT & CUPRA recently launched its new Circular Economy Hub at its facilities in Barcelona's Zona Franca. It is a workshop specifically adapted for the disassembly of vehicles and the recovery of parts, polymers, metals and other materials, with the aim of giving them a second life.

With the *best-in-class distinction*, Equiplast reinforces its desire to make visible already operational industrial projects that demonstrate the value of plastic in the circular economy, moving away from theoretical approaches and placing the emphasis on solutions with a real impact in sectors such as automotive, packaging, construction or health.

### **Presentation at *Rethinking Plastic***

The SEAT & CUPRA experience will be presented within the framework of *Rethinking Plastic*, one of the great novelties of Equiplast 2026. This is the show's congress space, which will analyse how the plastics industry is evolving towards new materials, more efficient processes and business models aligned with the circular economy.

Its conference programme will include nearly 50 sessions and more than 100 speakers, structured around four main axes: circular economy, recycling technologies, advanced materials and digitalisation. In this context, the experience of the Volkswagen Group's automaker will help attendees to learn first-hand about an example of real and scalable industrial application of these strategies from the perspective of a company that uses solutions in the plastics industry.

Equiplast 2026 will be held from 2 to 5 June at Fira de Barcelona's Gran Via venue, simultaneously with Expoquimia, bringing together a joint offer of 800 exhibitors and a forecast of 21,000 professionals, in an environment where the chemical and plastics industries converge to promote more sustainable and innovative materials and processes.

**Barcelona, May 2026**

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The exhibition Rethinking Plastic confirms the many lives of this material

## Circular plastic takes shape in a real-life exhibition at Equiplast

**Urban benches made from recycled plastics and cartons, planters made from post-consumer waste, electrical protection devices made from thermoplastic materials from chemical recycling or packaging made from agricultural waste are some of the solutions that can be seen at an exhibition on circular plastic during Equiplast. With this, the Fira de Barcelona trade show aims to demonstrate that plastic has many lives and plays a key role in promoting a truly circular economy.**

Equiplast will present a selection of ten real applications that highlight the potential of recycled, recyclable or renewably sourced plastic. Integrated into the *Rethinking Plastic* space, the exhibition will bring together prototypes and solutions developed by companies and technology centres that confirm that plastic waste can be transformed into new products for industry, the city and consumption.

The exhibition can be visited from 2 to 5 June at the Gran Via venue and includes initiatives that cover the entire life cycle of the material from the recovery of agricultural or post-consumer waste to its conversion into high value-added products, comparable in performance to conventional plastic materials. Packaging, building, logistics, mobility and urban design are some of the sectors that use this circular plastic.

Among the proposals is an installation by AIMPLAS that graphically recreates the process of recovering agricultural waste from olive groves and vineyards. Shaped like a barrel, the project allows the complete route of this waste – vine shoots or skins – to be followed from its use as a raw material to its transformation into final products such as boxes, caps or coasters, demonstrating the industrial viability of the process.

In the field of advanced recycled materials, Fych Technologies will exhibit a recycled low-density polyethylene (rLDPE) obtained through a proprietary decontamination process. This material offers sufficient performance for highly demanding blown film applications and is suitable for food contact, according to migration tests carried out.

### **Real applications for the city and industry**

The exhibition also includes applications designed for urban and architectural environments. Citysens will present Motus, its biophilic system of self-watering planters made of 100% recycled plastic from post-consumer waste, suitable for indoor and outdoor use.

Circular street furniture will play a prominent role with the proposals of Hoc and Unnom: modular benches made entirely from recycled plastics – including materials from tetrabriks – designed to facilitate their assembly, repair and reuse.

In construction, Indresmat will show its carpentry and insulation system based on Klima Pur foams, developed with low environmental impact formulations. These solutions combine bio-based materials and energy-efficient processes to improve the thermal and acoustic insulation of buildings.

### **Solutions for logistics, packaging and mobility**

Logistics and packaging, large consumers of plastic, will also be represented. Inka Palet will present pallets made from 100% recycled material, suitable for high-demand applications, while Enplast will exhibit an industrial three-layer drum that incorporates 50% post-consumer recycled material without losing technical performance.

The exhibition is completed with a battery module developed by Radicigroup under eco-design principles, which integrates partially recycled polyamide with fibreglass. Lati, for its

part, will participate with engineering thermoplastic materials for electrical protection devices obtained through chemical recycling, with performance equivalent to virgin plastic.

Overall, the exhibition highlights the sector's ability to move towards a circular economy based on innovation, traceability and the reuse of materials. Also, during the show, Equiplast will also present the Rethinking Plastic Awards to the three most innovative solutions on display.

The *Rethinking Plastic* space is completed with a large networking area and, as a novelty, a congress with nearly 50 sessions that will bring together around one hundred speakers to discuss the great challenges of the plastics industry.

#### **Showcase for innovation in plastics**

Equiplast will bring together 400 exhibitors from 18 countries, 15% more than in the previous edition, consolidating its position as the benchmark event for the plastics sector in the Iberian market and one of the main events in southern Europe. The offer includes extrusion and transformation machinery, automation, raw materials, recycling solutions, environment, software and specialized services.

The show will once again be held in conjunction with Expoquimia, the meeting of chemistry and process industries. Together, both events will have 800 exhibitors and are expected to attract around 21,000 professionals, strengthening collaboration between industries to develop more sustainable materials and processes.

Barcelona, May, 2026

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## The plastics industry in Spain

- It is made up of more than 3,600 companies, mainly SMEs.
- The largest number corresponds to plastic transformer companies (3,259), followed by manufacturers of molds, machinery and equipment for the manufacture of plastics (190), and plastic recyclers (184).
- The sector's turnover stands at 29,000 million euros per year. 92.8% of this figure are plastic processing companies, 5% are recyclers and 2% are machinery and equipment firms.
- The turnover of the Spanish plastics sector is equivalent to 1.99% of the national GDP and 5.22% of the Spanish industrial turnover.
- Catalonia concentrates about 29% of the companies in the sector. It is followed by the Valencian Community (21.7%), Madrid (9.2%), Andalusia (8.5%) and the Basque Country (6%).
- The sector employs more than 107,000 people in Spain, which represents more than 4.1% of industrial employment.
- The main sectors that use plastic are Packaging (35%), Automotive (27%) and Construction (16%).
- The plastics sector in Spain has a solid capacity for production, transformation, management, waste recovery and recycling of materials, occupying one of the main European markets.
- Spain has an installed recycling capacity of 2.33 million tonnes, with a degree of utilization of the plants of around 69% of their capacity.
- Spain is the first country in Europe in terms of plastics recycling capacity per capita and the second in absolute terms, consolidating its position as a European benchmark in recycling and circularity.
- Recycling plastics avoids between 1.14 and 3.57 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> for each tonne recycled, positioning the sector as a strategic ally in decarbonisation.

**Source: Equiplast 2026 Plastics Sector Report in Spain, carried out by the consultancy Market ADD for the show**

2-5 June 2026

[www.expoquimia.com](http://www.expoquimia.com) -- [www.equiplast.com](http://www.equiplast.com)

## Chemicals and plastics join forces to transform industries at Expoquimia and Equiplast

- With 35% more exhibitors than in 2023, the two trade fairs will host a total of 800 exhibitors in Halls 2 and 3 of the Gran Via venue
- How to innovate and respond to energy, environmental and competitiveness challenges, the main axes of both events

**From 2 to 5 June, Expoquimia and Equiplast, leading events for the Spanish chemical and plastics industries, will be held jointly at Fira de Barcelona's Gran Via venue. With 35% more companies than in 2023, the two events will bring together 800 exhibitors and 200 knowledge-sharing and networking activities, featuring 400 experts as speakers. The two trade fairs will highlight the key role of these sectors in an industrial transformation that drives applied innovation and tackles energy, environmental and competitiveness challenges in an increasingly demanding context.**

Organised by Fira de Barcelona, Expoquimia and Equiplast will occupy 26,000 square metres of net exhibition space in Halls 2 and 3 of the Gran Via venue, representing a 25% increase in net stand space compared to the 2023 edition. Together, they are expected to attract more than 21,000 trade visitors.

Among the firms exhibiting at Expoquimia are leading companies such as Air Liquide, BASF, Bondalti, Bosch Iberia, Carbueros Metálicos, Covestro, Marchesini, Messer, Moeve, Quimidroga, Scharlab, Sener and Telstar, amongst others. In the case of Equiplast, the list of exhibitors includes companies such as AGI, Alimatic, Albis, Ar Sistemas, Arburg, Bada, BMB and Centrotécnica, alongside many other leading companies in the sector.

Machinery, equipment and technology will play a prominent role at both events, with the display of operational equipment for automated production processes. Expoquimia will also feature a wide range of raw materials and basic chemicals; analytical, measurement and control instrumentation; and materials and systems for surface treatment. At Equiplast, the offering will be complemented by raw materials and additives, moulds and dies, semi-finished or finished plastic products, and recycling services and solutions.

### Top-class conference programme

Expoquimia and Equiplast will also feature a conference programme with around 200 sessions, focusing on innovation, sustainability and industrial competitiveness. These events will bring together 400 speakers, including experts and representatives from companies, academia, technology centres and industry associations, to discuss and reflect on the major challenges facing the chemical and plastics sectors.

At Expoquimia, the programme will be structured around the Industry Showcase, with sessions dedicated to decarbonisation, circular water management, innovation in materials and advanced digitalisation, including artificial intelligence. This will be complemented by a new edition of Smart Chemistry, the forum promoted by the Spanish Chemical Industry Business Federation (FEIQUE), focusing on industrial competitiveness and the role of chemistry in the green transition.

The programme will be rounded off by the Mediterranean Congress of Chemical Engineering (MeCCE), one of the sector's leading scientific forums in southern Europe, as well as technical conferences, professional meetings, sessions on international markets and around twenty events organised by companies and sectoral bodies.

For its part, Equiplast will launch 'Rethinking Plastic', a conference featuring sessions focused on the circular economy, recycling, advanced materials and digitalisation, with a particular emphasis on real-world case studies and best industrial practices. This event will be complemented by an exhibition of products made from sustainable plastic, designed to showcase the diversity of applications for a material with multiple life cycles, and a networking area aimed at facilitating the exchange of knowledge and the creation of new opportunities for collaboration.

#### **Gala Dinner: celebration and awards**

Expoquimia and Equiplast will also celebrate their history as major triennial industrial events, marking 60 years (21 editions) for Expoquimia and 40 years (14 editions) for Equiplast. The highlight of these celebrations will be the Expoquimia Gala Dinner, to be held on 3 June in the Oval Room of the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC) and will bring together more than 700 executives, industry representatives and institutional leaders. The event will feature a keynote speech by Katja Scharpwinkel, a member of the Executive Board of BASF SE and former Vice-President of the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC).

Within this framework, the best-in-class awards for both fairs will be presented, recognising Moeve, L'Oréal Groupe, Lefance and Almirall in the field of chemistry, and SEAT & CUPRA in the field of plastics, highlighting industrial excellence, innovation and sustainability.

During the fairs, other awards will be presented, including the Rethinking Plastic Awards, which will recognise the most innovative and sustainable products exhibited in the Equiplast showroom, and the Liderpack 2025 Awards for packaging and point-of-sale displays, organised by Graphispack Association and the Hispack fair at Fira de Barcelona. Furthermore, to mark their anniversaries, both fairs will pay a special tribute to the companies, organisations and professionals who have accompanied them on their journey.

#### **Key sectors for the Spanish economy**

The joint celebration of Expoquimia and Equiplast will provide a snapshot of two transversal and strategic industries for the Spanish economy. The chemical industry in Spain has an annual turnover of over €85 billion and leads the country's exports, with overseas sales of nearly €63 billion, according to data from the Spanish Chemical Industry Business Federation (FEIQUE).

Its role as a supplier of products and technologies to sectors such as agri-food, pharmaceuticals, automotive and mobility, construction, energy and digital technologies reinforces its strategic importance in addressing challenges such as climate change and the energy transition.

The Spanish plastics industry, for its part, generates an annual turnover of around €29 billion, equivalent to 2% of the national GDP, according to the latest data from a study commissioned by Equiplast. The sector is advancing in its transition towards the circular economy, with the aim of turning waste into a valuable resource for the manufacture of new materials and products in areas such as packaging, construction, automotive, electronics or textiles.

#### **Barcelona, May 2026**

Maria Dolores Herranz / Josep Lluís Mérida  
Tel. 932 332 541 – 114  
[mdherranz@firabarcelona.com](mailto:mdherranz@firabarcelona.com)  
[jmerida@firabarcelona.com](mailto:jmerida@firabarcelona.com)

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