

EPS

Consumption in Italy falls back to normal levels in 2024 / Association sees good prospects for 2026

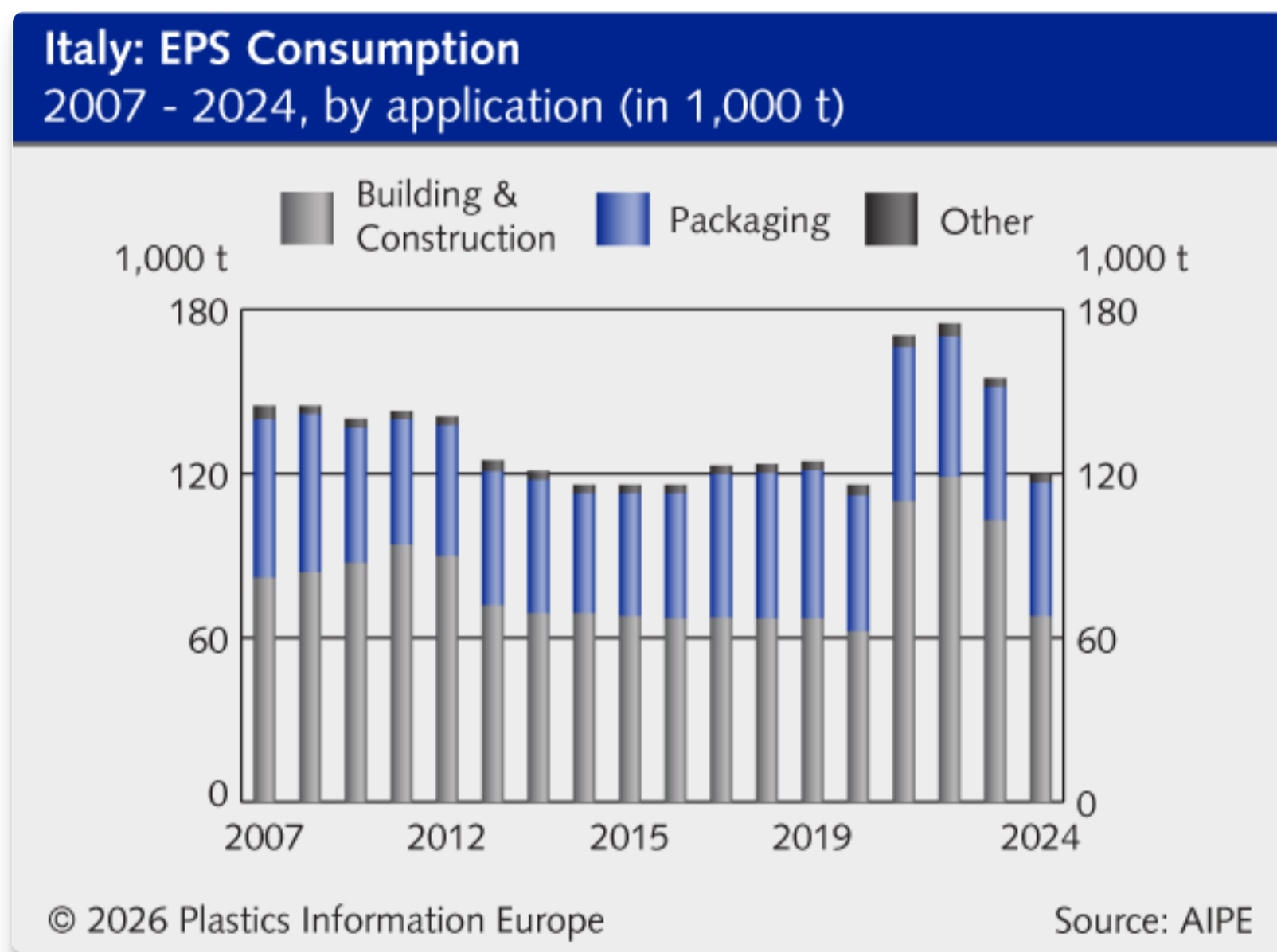
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– By PIE staff –

EPS consumption in Italy fell by 23% in 2024 to 120,000 t. This brought demand back broadly to the level seen before the Covid-19 pandemic and the introduction of the “super bonus”.

Of the total volume, 68,000 t were used in the construction sector, 49,000 t in the packaging industry, and 3,000 t in other applications. These figures come from an analysis by market research company **Plastic Consult** (Milan, Italy; www.plasticconsult.it), which conducts the study annually on behalf of the Italian expanded polystyrene association **AIPE** (Milan; www.aipe.biz).



The so-called super bonus had given the market a significant boost in 2021 and 2022. Under the incentive scheme, the Italian government temporarily subsidised energy-efficient renovation measures with support of up to 110% of the renovation costs incurred. The financial incentives were subsequently scaled back, leading to a corresponding decline in demand for EPS.

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“2025 marks the normalisation of the market after the construction boom, but also the start of a more mature and sustainable phase,” said AIPE president *Giuseppe Rinaldi*. He described the outlook for 2026 as positive.

“In the construction sector, the EPBD IV directive for ‘green homes’ requires a shift towards greater energy efficiency,” he said. “And in the packaging sector, the new PPWR regulation offers an opportunity to improve the recyclability of EPS and increase the use of post-consumer recycled material.”

EPS recycling made progress in 2024. Companies belonging to the **Corepla** consortium (Milan; www.corepla.it), which is dedicated to the collection, recycling, and recovery of plastic packaging, processed a total of 11,500 t of EPS in 2024 – an increase of 11.6% compared with the previous year.

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