

This volume collects papers presented and discussed during the 8th Eurofillers conference, held on June 21–25 2009, in Alessandria (Italy).

The first Eurofillers conference was held in Mulhouse, France in 1995 as a result of merging of Moffis (France) and Filplas (UK) Conferences. It was an immediate success, well attended and with an impressive number of quality papers covering a wide span of topics. The following meeting, organized in Manchester two years later, continued the successful format and consolidated its position as the leading international conference for all aspects of fillers research and development. Since then, five additional and very successful Eurofillers conferences were held in Lyon, Lodz, Alicante, Bruges and Zalakaros.

The studies regarding fillers for polymeric materials have gone through considerable changes during the years, since industrial and academic main interest shifted from traditional fillers to other

heterogeneous systems, like nanocomposites, or natural fibers reinforcements. In particular, downsizing of fillers from macro to nano dimensions is bringing the possibility of combining improvement of physical-mechanical properties of polymer materials, altogether with the attribution of various functionalities. In this last edition, held for the first time in Italy, the conference hosted more than 170 delegates from 25 countries with a total of 10 invited speakers, 70 oral presentations and 85 posters.

The volume collects twenty peer reviewed selected papers from the Conference sessions: Nanocomposites materials, Sustainable materials, Filler-matrix interactions, Flame retardancy, Multifunctional materials, Applications.

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