

PRESS RELEASE – 03 FEBRUARY 2022

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CERAMICS FORUM APPOINTS A NEW CHAIR

03 February 2022, Brussels – [The European Parliament Ceramics Forum \(EPCF\)](#) welcomes MEP Elisabetta Gualmini as its new Chair.

The EPCF, a cross-party discussion group whose aim is to facilitate dialogue between the European institutions and the ceramic industry on all relevant policy development, welcomes MEP Elisabetta Gualmini as its new Chair. MEP Gualmini has served as an active member of the EPCF since the beginning of the 2019-2024 parliamentary legislature and will take over from MEP Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero, who has proactively served as EPCF Chair since 2016.

The European ceramic industry and the members of the EPCF thank MEP Rodríguez-Piñero for her support and dedication to this platform. During her mandate, the EPCF has hosted multiple debates and high-level meetings on various subjects of key importance to the ceramic industry, including climate policy, the energy transition, trade policy, decarbonisation in ceramics and the role of electrification, circular economy, etc. Reflecting the importance of trade for the ceramic industry, the EPCF launched a new EPCF Trade Committee under the chairmanship of MEP Rodríguez-Piñero. Lastly, during the 27th plenary meeting of the EPCF held on 16 November 2021, the last to be chaired by MEP Rodríguez-Piñero, the EPCF focused on decarbonisation under the “Fit For 55” package and on the ceramic industry’s need for access to sustainable finance under the Green Taxonomy Regulation.

MEP Gualmini is aware of the essential role of ceramic products and technologies in many value chains to deliver on the European Green Deal as shown in the New [Ceramic Roadmap to 2050](#) and we look forward to a fruitful collaboration in exploring dossiers that are of strategic importance to the ceramic industry and to trigger discussions that will support the industry in facing the challenges of the energy, green and digital transitions, while remaining competitive and a provider of local jobs throughout the European Union, more particularly in the context of the current energy crisis.

MEP Gualmini states, *“It is a great responsibility and an honour to represent one of the pillars of the European economy as well as one of the oldest industrial sectors in Europe. The ceramic industry has built up over time and boasts a long and proud tradition, constantly evolving to create more and more innovative products and solutions to improve our everyday life. A sector that provides over 400 thousand jobs and accounts for €27.8 billion in production value, representing 25% of the global production. I will be fully committed to help the European ceramic sector to enhance its competitiveness and play a decisive role in a just and affordable transition towards climate neutrality”.*

MEP Gualmini is also fully committed to continue to develop and enlarge the EPCF, throughout her mandate. Accordingly, MEP Gualmini will invite the current and potential new MEP members of the Forum to discuss the EPCF initiatives for 2022.

MEP Gualmini is a Professor of Public Policy Analysis at the University of Bologna and since May 2019 she has been an MEP for the North-East constituency of Italy. In the European Parliament she is a Member of the Budgets, Employment and Social Affairs, and Economic and Monetary Affairs Committees.



MEP Inmaculada
Rodríguez-Piñero



MEP Elisabetta
Gualmini
