

— **Director of Public Affairs**
Plastics Europe



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About Plastics Europe

PlasticsEurope is the pan-European association of plastics manufacturers with offices in every major capital of Europe. For over 100 years, science and innovation has been the DNA that cuts across our industry. With close to 100 members producing over 90% of all polymers across Europe, we are the catalyst for the industry with a responsibility to openly engage with stakeholders and deliver solutions which are safe, circular and sustainable. We are committed to implementing long-lasting positive change.



Plastics Europe is looking for a highly experienced Director for its Public Affairs department. The position of Director of Public Affairs is a senior leadership role within Plastics Europe based in Brussels (with occasional travel mostly within Europe) and reporting to the Managing Director. This role is integral to shaping and steering the association's public, government, and political strategies, ensuring the voice of the plastics industry is heard and further reinforcing the positioning of the association as a key partner.

As the Director of Public Affairs, you will lead a dynamic and dedicated team, collaborating with Plastics Europe's member companies to develop and execute strategies that align with our mission of fostering a safe, circular, and sustainable future. You will lead efforts to identify and engage with key political and public stakeholders, staying ahead of emerging trends and initiatives that could impact our industry. Your role will be crucial in setting the policy agenda and priorities. Through your experience and expertise, you will provide strategic guidance to the Managing Director, President, Steering Board and the association's members.



Key responsibilities

Setting strategy

- Acting as a credible and authoritative strategic adviser to the association's leadership and senior members:
 - Providing them with information, insight and counsel on reputation and operating environments to enable forward-thinking and informed scenario planning.
 - Assisting in understanding and managing the sector's reputation by proactively communicating industry actions & activities to key policy audiences
 - Advising on shifts in the operating environment and in stakeholder agendas and expectations, and their impact strategy execution
- Challenging the membership (questioning norms and legacy behaviours) and advising the membership on how decisions may impact or be perceived by key stakeholders
 - Providing regular reporting which demonstrates the value of reputation to the business and progress of public affairs activities
- Providing an external viewpoint and perspective to ensure the organisation benefits from an outside-in approach to public and government affairs. Developing and leading the implementation of public affairs strategies:
 - Developing and implementing a strategic and measurable integrated public affairs strategy for the entire organisation. This strategy targets key policy and value chain audiences to support policy goals, facilitate organisational transformation, and protect the reputation of the sector. It encompasses all activities of the organisation and its entities, identifying key influencers and defining modes of engagement with each.

Membership, team and group management

- Leading the Plastics Europe Advocacy Committee and pan-European Public Affairs team, i.e. implementation of the strategy, budgeting and financial reporting, management of service providers and negotiation of related contracts,
- Managing and coordinating a team of around 10 people in Brussels and key European markets. Oversee their professional development (in coordination with regional Directors as applicable), ensuring they become strategic advisers and skilled public affairs professionals.

Engagement and Strategic Partnerships

- Building and maintaining strong networks with key stakeholders, including opinion leaders and decision-makers in politics, the business community and the media.
- Acting as a spokesperson of Plastics Europe to represent and advocate for the industry in official and professional bodies.

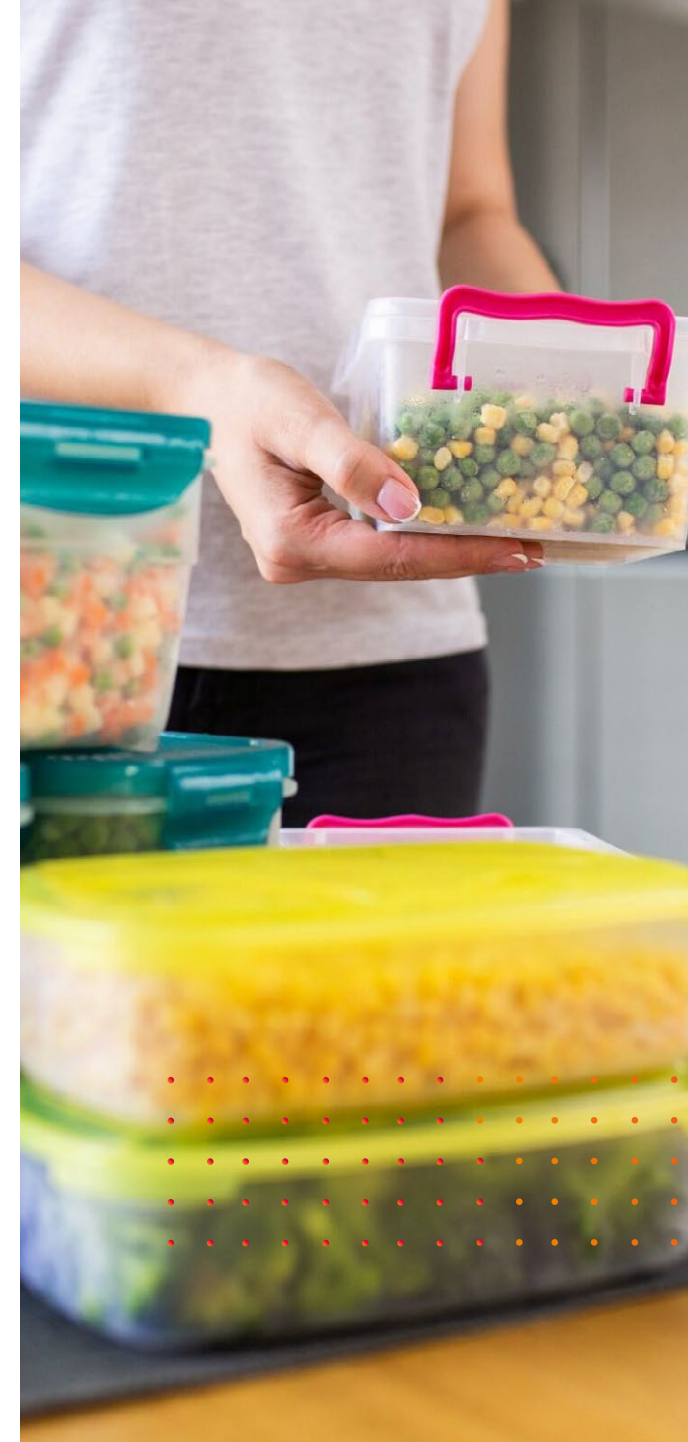
Public Affairs:

- Developing a strong working relationship with the President, senior members and Managing Director by providing advice on their engagement with policymakers in a Plastics Europe capacity. The role also includes providing critical advice and support in relations to key public positioning and communications, and in times of change or crisis
- In coordination with the Managing Director, fostering strong relationships with the senior stakeholders across key external audiences in Brussels and key EU capitals (including value-chain, civil society, policy makers, etc.).
- Representing the industry externally at events, conferences, and meetings as appropriate.
- Working with the Communications Director, Strategic Council Directors and other relevant colleagues, to develop and oversee proactive policymaker campaigns that highlight the value of plastics, their contribution to the circular economy, their role in addressing future sustainability challenges, and the industry's response to identified challenges in line with the Plastics Transition Roadmap.
- Constructively contributing to legislative and regulatory procedures
- Anticipating evidence needs in emerging policy scenarios or in fast paced debates.

Profile

The candidate should be a highly experienced public or corporate affairs leader, with a proven track record of working in complex or diverse organisations who demonstrates:

- Higher education degree (master/MBA)
- Relevant international working experience (minimum 10 years) at a senior level within a company, association or as a consultant
- Experience working with associations and within a larger organization comparable with Plastics Europe an advantage.
- Fluency in written and spoken English; good knowledge of another European language would be an asset.
- Proven knowledge of the EU political landscape and legislative process
- Proven experience in strategic leadership and extensive policy awareness to enable identification of opportunities and threats when formulating strategy and evaluating long-term impact.
- Ability to develop integrated public affairs plans and shape policy discussions to position Plastics Europe as a prominent voice in the policy debate.
- Demonstrated management and organizational skills: results oriented, accountable, solution driven.
- Excellent networker with excellent social and cross-cultural and diplomatic skills
- Strong capacity to leverage collective intelligence and has experience facilitating and creating collaborative relationships with high-level stakeholders in context of complex negotiations or debates.
- Excellent communication and negotiation skills, including comfort as public speaker, speaking at conferences and seminars.
- Strong experience in project and staff management, including budgeting.
- Inspiring, self-starting leader who can motivate and lead pan-European teams
- Outstanding interpersonal, strong verbal and written communication and negotiation skills
- Self-confidence, balanced and constructively critical with a positive attitude



Recruitment Process



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The specialist executive search firm Dober Partners has been retained to draw up a shortlist of prospective candidates against the criteria set out in this document, and using their discretion and expertise to recruit a Director of Public Affairs together with the leadership and members of Plastics Europe.

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