

— **Director Public Affairs,
Communications and Partnerships**
FoodDrinkEurope



Dober Partners
Executive Search
& Consultancy

- 03** About FoodDrinkEurope
- 04** What You'll Do
- 06** Recruitment Process





We promote the ideas and policies that enable the European food and drink industry to make products that are not only safe but also contribute to a greener planet, healthier living and a thriving economy. We want all consumers to enjoy a safe, sustainable and healthy diet.

FoodDrinkEurope's permanent secretariat, based in Brussels, maintains close contacts with European and international institutions and is a major partner in consultations on all issues affecting Europe's food and drink industry.

FoodDrinkEurope coordinates the work of more than 700 experts through its Committees and Expert Groups around four themes: food and consumer policy (food safety and science, nutrition and health), environmental sustainability and competitiveness.

Through these Committees and Expert Groups, Europe's food and drink manufacturers provide broad and in-depth expertise. They contribute to FoodDrinkEurope positions on key issues which, once approved, are communicated to European and international decision-makers with a view to shaping legislative and non-legislative developments impacting on the industry.

Food and drink is Europe's largest manufacturing industry, generating millions of jobs and playing an integral part in driving the EU economy.

Here's a breakdown of the industry in numbers:

- The EU food and drink industry employs 4.8 million people
- It generates a turnover of €1.5 trillion
- It generates €300 billion in value-added
- In half of the EU's 27 Member States, the food and drink industry is the biggest manufacturing employer
- Around 75% of the EU's food and drink products are destined for the Single Market
- The EU is the largest exporter of food and drink products in the world with exports reaching €190 billion and a large trade surplus

FoodDrinkEurope is looking for an exceptional and inspiring leader to join its senior management team as Director of Public Affairs, Communications and Partnerships.

This is a high-profile role at the heart of EU policy-making and stakeholder engagement for Europe's largest manufacturing industry. The successful candidate will be a politically savvy strategist, a confident spokesperson, and above all a positive, proactive leader capable of mobilising teams, members and partners around a shared vision and clear priorities.

You will lead a highly strategic team of five, while working closely with the various policy teams, the Director General and FoodDrinkEurope's membership to maximise impact, reputation and influence of the association at EU level.

This is a rare opportunity to shape how one of Europe's most important sectors positions itself, tells its story, and builds partnerships in a complex and fast-moving political environment.

Responsibilities

The successful applicant will:

- Define and deliver an ambitious integrated public affairs, communications and partnerships strategy aligned with FoodDrinkEurope's overall objectives and EU policy priorities
- Act as a senior spokesperson for the organisation, representing FoodDrinkEurope with EU institutions, media, partners and at high-level events
- Lead, motivate and develop a high-performing team of five, fostering a positive, can-do and collaborative culture
- Support and advise the Director General and policy departments, helping translate complex policy positions into compelling narratives and effective advocacy strategies
- Anticipate political and reputational risks and lead issue and crisis management, ensuring coordination across the membership when needed
- Strengthen FoodDrinkEurope's reputation and visibility as a credible, forward-looking and solution-oriented partner
- Identify, build and manage strategic partnerships and alliances across the EU ecosystem
- Oversee internal communications and member engagement, including close interaction with National Federations and committees
- Ensure coherence and alignment across public affairs, communications, partnerships and policy work, maximising overall organisational impact.



Profile

We are looking for a candidate who brings:

- Significant (10+ years) experience in EU public affairs, advocacy and/or communications, with a sound understanding of EU institutions and decision-making
- Proven ability to operate confidently in political, diplomatic and stakeholder-rich environments
- Strong leadership skills, with experience leading and motivating a small team (essential)
- The credibility and confidence to act as a trusted internal adviser and external representative
- Excellent communication, networking and influencing skills, with a talent for building consensus and momentum
- A positive, pragmatic and strategic mindset, with the energy to engage others and turn ideas into action
- Experience in the agri-food, food and drink, or related sectors is a strong asset
- Fluency in English; additional EU languages are an asset
- Eligibility to work in the EU.

Our offer

- An open-ended Belgian contract with a competitive salary package that includes benefits such as health insurance, meal vouchers, pension scheme and more.
- A senior leadership role with high visibility and real influence at EU level
- A dynamic, international and purpose-driven working environment in Brussels
- The opportunity to work at the heart of Europe's food and drink sector, helping shape its role in Europe's future.

Diversity and inclusion

FoodDrinkEurope is committed to creating an inclusive and diverse working environment where different perspectives are valued. We welcome applications from all qualified candidates, regardless of gender, age, nationality, disability, sexual orientation, religion or background.



Recruitment Process



© Dober Partners – Author Mark Dober

The specialist executive search firm Dober Partners has been retained by FoodDrinkEurope to draw up a shortlist of prospective candidates against the criteria set out in this document, and using their discretion and expertise to help recruit a new Director Public Affairs, Communications and Partnerships.

Candidates should send a CV and short motivation letter by e-mail, indicating "Director Public Affairs, Communications and Partnerships – your name" in the subject line to the Dober Partners team members below:

Mark Dober

M: +32 477 950 466

→ mark@doberpartners.com

Natalia Kurop

M: +32 488 945 579

→ natalia@doberpartners.com

www.doberpartners.com



Dober Partners
Executive Search
& Consultancy