

## The Society of European Affairs Professionals | COVID-19 - Press Release

Dear members, European affairs professionals, and members of the public affairs community in general. Given the current unprecedented crisis worldwide, the Society of European Affairs Professionals (SEAP) is reaching out to you regarding the importance of these events and its impact on the public affairs community.

We all should be conscious that Covid-19 is a rapidly evolving systemic crisis with far-reaching implications, affecting all sectors of society. All efforts should be directed at solving and managing the crisis for our family, friends and society. We all have an important role to play to this end.

Public affairs professionals, like many professions, are affected through a variety of factors such as availability of staff, loss of work, access to overseas and domestic customers, loss of income, reduced productivity, and overall impacts on personal wellbeing. At the same time, many of you will continue working and we need to be mindful of our roles during this crisis. As such we should be prepared to maintain the highest standards of integrity, transparency and ethics. SEAP is aware that practices will have to be adapted on all ends of the public affairs spectrum to assure the smooth continuation of works and delivery of policy outcomes.

To that end, SEAP recognises that:

### PA professionals should:

- Be mindful that many institutional officials are managing a crisis situation, and understanding of eventual delays in response or engagement timelines (especially when lobbying in files unrelated to the crisis situation). Public officials are dealing with a fast-moving crisis and communicating a tough, unprecedented message as best as they can;
- Be mindful that there might be technical issues that will render their activities/ the activities of public officials difficult to perform, such as difficulty contacting important stakeholders or holding group meetings;
- Maintain high standards of transparency and ethics when exercising their activities including updating the ETI register per normal practice
- Adapt working methods according to current circumstances to the best of their ability;
- Being available to bring any expertise or experience to bear on various initiatives and policy requests from officials in areas focused on responding to the crisis;
- Be respectful of not burdening officials during this trying time;
- Be understanding that priorities have changed and recent policy work may be curtailed or changed;

Despite this current crisis, the wheels of democracy do not stop, and as such, public affairs professionals need to continue their work with regard to the aforementioned commitments.

Ultimately, this is a very difficult period and we should all be mindful of the particular impacts this situation might have on our daily lives, and work to cooperatively support each other. SEAP is prepared to play its part in bringing together the public affairs community. As such, and in the context of this crisis, SEAP will be opening its services for any wishing to be involved in our activities during this time. Our community of public affairs professionals is an important one and at this time we willingly open our services to any PA professional who would like to receive our communications, participate in our virtual events or enjoy our reference tools and information sources.

Simply [sign in](#) to receive note of our activities and receive our newsletter.

Also, don't forget to follow our work on social media.

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Stay safe

The SEAP Team,