

SEÁN Ó RIAIN - CV

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PROFILE

28 years of diplomatic service in Brussels (EU), Germany, Austria, Poland, Australia. PhD (TCD) on language policy, "Language Planning in Ireland and Québec". Some legal studies.

1. CAREER

Work experience of **30 years**: 1 year at the European Commission, 16 years at 5 Irish embassies abroad, working with 10 Ambassadors, 11 years in Iveagh House; and 2 years lecturing in Irish at Maynooth University. Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs Branch of **AHCPS**, 1999-2001. **Media** spokesman at 4 of the 5 embassies, with extensive contact with journalists.

EU Presidency Experience: 1. Berlin 2004: Responsible for keeping HQ and relevant embassies informed of all developments of Presidency interest reported in the German media each day (total of 328 reports). Awarded Merit Award by Department for this work.

2. Warsaw 1996: As DHM, chaired and ran 5 EU embassy groups: political; economic/commercial; agricultural; cultural; JHA and Consular Group. Also attended all EU Ambassadors' meetings.

Human Resources Experience: Experience of the entire range of human resources matters. Has had a total of 39 staff reporting to him: 22 at embassies abroad and 17 in Dublin. Has served on interview boards to recruit new third secretaries for the DFA.

Seconded national expert at European Commission (DGT) since September 2007. Responsible for the Irish-language version of the Commission website, EUROPA, and for making an ongoing contribution to the evolution of language policy.

Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union, 2005 - 2007. Responsible for Irish contribution to EU policy on the Western Balkans and Latin America. Awarded Merit Award by Department for this work.

Embassy of Ireland, Berlin. Press, Information and Cultural officer, 2001-05.

Embassy, Warsaw. Deputy Head of Mission, 1994-99. Responsible for political advice to Irish companies investing in Poland, political and economic reporting on Poland, and for embassy budget. Irish investment in Poland (mainly AIB, CRH) passed from €10 m. to over € 1 billion in this period. **Chargé d'Affaires** a.i. for 6 months (July/August each year).

Previously: First Secretary, Central and Eastern Europe Section, 1999-2001; First Secretary, Middle East Section 1993-94; and Bilateral Trade Section, 1992-93; Third Secretary at

Embassy, **Canberra**, 1990-92; **Council of Europe** Section, 1988-90, and 1978-79; Embassy **Vienna** (and Permanent Representation to the United Nations), 1985-88; Information Section 1983-85; Development Cooperation Section 1982-83; **EU Coordination** Section 1981-82.

1. Accepted for 1-year course by **ENA (Paris, National School of Administration)** in 1993.
- 2 Represented Ireland on **Council of Europe** inter-governmental committee which drew up the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages, 1988-1990.

Selected Publications/Lectures

1. **Pleanáil Teanga in Éirinn 1919-1985** (Language Planning in Ireland 1919-1985), an examination of the formulation and implementation of Irish language policy, Carbad/Bord na Gaeilge, 1994, launched by Professor Joe Lee.

2. **The EU and the Irish Language: Identity and Linguistic Diversity/An tAontas Eorpach agus an Ghaeilge: Féiniúlacht agus Éagsúlacht Teanga.** Clódhanna Tta., launched by Minister Mary Hanafin, T.D. on behalf of then Minister for Foreign Affairs Brian Cowen, T.D. at Iveagh House, July 2001.

3. **Sprachplanung in Irland** (Language Planning in Ireland), Gesellschaft für Interlinguistik (Interlinguistics Society), Berlin, 2002.

4. **Articles/Lectures:** Many articles on diplomatic and general linguistic topics for Irish and international journals. Has lectured on the Irish experience of European integration and on language policy and at various universities (incl. Sydney, Melbourne, Warsaw, Poznan, Gdansk, Berlin, Munich, Essen; Guarda and Covilha, Portugal).

2. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Ph.D. for thesis **Pleanáil Teanga in Éirinn agus i Québec** (Language Planning in Ireland and Québec - a comparative study on the formation and implementation of language policy in Ireland and Québec), 2 volumes, p. 984. **Trinity College Dublin**, 1985.

M.A.(Hons.) for thesis **Gnéithe Briathartha san Aimsir Láithreach** (Verbal Aspects in the Present Tense), **NUI Galway** 1978.

Ard-Teastas in Oideachas (Higher Diploma in Education), **NUI Galway**, 1976.

B.A. (Hons.) in Irish and French, with German as subsidiary subject, 1975. Awarded **1916 Memorial Post-Graduate Scholarship** for First Class Honours in Irish and first place in his class at the B.A. examination.

First prize in Irish at NUI Galway, in 1974, 1973, 1972. **1st LL.B.**, 1974; **2nd LL. B.** 1976. Courses in EU law and constitutional law. **Cistercian College, Ros Cré**, Co. Tipperary, 1967-1972.

3. PERSONAL DETAILS

Born: Tipperary, 5 November 1955. Married to Suzanne, from French-speaking Switzerland; 2 daughters: Aisling (b.1993) and Ciara (b. 1996).

Languages: Fluent in Irish, English, French, German, Polish, Spanish, Welsh, Esperanto. Reading knowledge of Italian, Russian, Dutch and Latin.