Joe Hayes

Joe Hayes retired from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in June 2014. He served as Ireland's Ambassador to China, to Denmark and Iceland, to the Czech Republic and Ukraine and latterly as Ambassador to Singapore with dual accreditation to Indonesia, The Philippines, Brunei and Timor Leste. He worked in Armagh as Joint Secretary of the North South Ministerial Council. He was Ireland's representative on the Board of the Asia Europe Foundation and architect of Ireland's first Asia Strategy. He also served in Irish Embassies in Bonn, Moscow and London, as Deputy Legal Adviser, as Press Officer and as Private Secretary to the Minister. Prior to joining DFAT Joe worked as a lawyer with the IDA and as a journalist with Independent Newspapers. He is married (to Deirdre) and has four children, the youngest of whom, Eavan Kate, has an intellectual disability and resides with the Camphill Community.