

CURRICULUM VITAE



James Séamus Boland

*President of the Diversity Europe Group
European Economic and Social Committee*

Date of birth: 18/05/1956

Language skills: English (native), Irish (native), French

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

27/10/2020 to present

President of the EESC Diversity Europe Group (Group 3)

2001 to present

Chief Executive Officer of [Irish Rural Link](#)

Promotion of strong rural and community development policy for the benefit of people and their families.

Since 2018 to present

Board Member of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)

[IFI](#) is the state agency responsible for the conservation, protection, management, marketing, development and improvement of Irish fisheries and sea angling resources.

2012 to present

Chairperson of Peatlands Council

Comprising of all stakeholders involved with bogs; The [council](#) is charged with the design and implementation of a Peatlands Strategy affecting bogs that are affected by the peatlands directive.

10/10/2011 to present

Member of the EESC

- Vice-President of the Diversity Europe Group
- Member of the Diversity Europe Group Bureau
- Member of the SOC, ECO, NAT and TEN sections, the CCMI and the Farmers Category
- Member of the SOC and NAT Bureau
- Member of the permanent study group on Economic and Fiscal Governance in the euro area
- President of study groups, such as:
 - [SOC/632 Decent minimum wages across Europe](#)
 - [SOC/615 Global compact on migration: EU values-based implementation](#)
 - [NAT/594 Establishing Sustainable Development Goals](#)

- EESC Rapporteur for various opinions related to agriculture, rural development, energy, social affairs and Brexit, amongst others:
 - [SOC/530 Fighting poverty](#)
 - [NAT/672 CAP simplification](#)

2011 to 2018

Chairperson of Pobal

[Pobal](#) is an intermediary that works on behalf of the Irish government to support communities and local agencies toward achieving social inclusion, reconciliation and equality. Pobal is a not-for-profit company with charitable status that manages programmes on behalf of the Irish government and the EU.

2007 to 2013

Member of the first [Press Council of Ireland](#)

2007 to 2010

Chairperson of The Wheel

[The Wheel](#) is Ireland's national association of community and voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises.

1995 to 2001

Midlands Regional Director of Community Youth Services

1993-1995

Disability Training Co-coordinator by Midland Health Board

1988 to 1993

Instructor in Tullamore and Athlone TRAVELLER Training Centres, subsequently appointed manager of both

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Honours Degree Community and Rural Development awarded by National University Maynooth

Degree and teaching qualification in Speech and Drama awarded by London School of Music, Speech and Drama