



Emma Hickey is a dual Irish and English qualified solicitor (lawyer). She has a Bachelor of Civil Law from University College Dublin and a European Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation received from the European Inter University Centre Venice and KU Leuven. She has been seconded by the Irish government to EUPOL COPPS as human rights expert since October 2017.

Prior to this she worked for the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels for four years as policy officer in the human rights division. During this time she was the Alternate Chair of the European Council's Working Group on Human Rights (COHOM). COHOM is comprised of the human rights directors of the 28 EU Member States or their substitutes and sets the human rights and democracy policy agenda for the EU in external affairs. This includes negotiating positions for the UN and agreeing EU thematic guidelines on issues such as children, violence against women and torture. Ms Hickey also served as the EU's transitional justice adviser and drafted the EU's policy framework on support to transitional justice. Her geographic portfolio included the Gulf, Yemen, Iraq and Afghanistan as well as advising on countries engaged in transitional justice processes. Other thematic areas of expertise included multilateral affairs (UN, OSCE and the Council of Europe) and IHL/international criminal law.

MsHickey also worked as a lawyer for the UK's government legal department in London dealing with cases against the Ministry of Justice (including the courts service, prisons and probation services). She also spent 5 years practising as a lawyer in Ireland and specialised in litigation with a particular focus on medical negligence. She also volunteered for many years as a pro bono solicitor with the Free Legal Advice Centres in Dublin.

Ms Hickey also has experience as advocacy assistant with Human Rights Watch in Brussels and undertook an internship with UN OHCHR.

She is an accredited mediator with Mediation Forum Ireland (2010) and a qualified TEFL (teaching English as a Foreign Language) teacher (2005).