



Robert-Jan SMITS

Vice-Chair of the FCH 2 JU Governing Board



Director-General of Directorate-General Research and Innovation - European Commission

Membership or presidency of other boards:

- European Co-chair of the Executive Committee of the International Group on Earth Observation (GEO)
- Chair of the European Research Area Committee (ERAC)
- Chair of the Steering Committee of the ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA)
- Chair of different Joint S&T Committees with Europe's key global partners.

Robert-Jan Smits is Director-General of DG Research and Innovation (RTD) at the European Commission. In this capacity he is responsible for defining and implementing the EU policy and programmes in the field of research and innovation (average annual budget 8 billion euro).

Mr Smits was one of the main architects and negotiators of Horizon 2020, the 80 billion EU programme for science and innovation (2014-2020).

Mr Smits has also been instrumental in the development of several policy initiatives in the field of European science and innovation such as: the European Research Council (ERC), the European Roadmap for large scale facilities, Public-Private Partnerships in research, the Innovation Union and the European Research Area (ERA).

Mr Smits was born in The Netherlands. He has degrees from Utrecht University in The Netherlands, Institut Universitaire d'Hautes Etudes Internationales in Switzerland and Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy in the United States of America.

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