



## **Robert-Jan Smits**

RJS is the Director-General of DG Research (RTD) – of the European Commission in Brussels. In this position he is the administrative leader and responsible for all research funding of the European Union, known as 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme (FP7) with around 53bn € in the past, or for the forthcoming "Horizon 2020" which will see a strong increase of budget. The European Parliament and several European Member Countries now request a sum of above 70bn €.

His previous assignment was Deputy Director-General of DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) where he was responsible for the JRC's Programmes and its relations with stakeholder, for the general resource management, and three research institutes located in different European countries: the 'Institute for Energy' partly in located in Ispra/Italy and in Petten/the Netherlands, the 'Institute for Environment and Sustainability', also in Ispra/Italy and the 'Institute for Prospective Technological Studies in Sevilla/Spain'.

Before, Mr. Smits was Director for the "European Research Area", handling Research Programmes and the 'Capacity Programme' at DG RTD. His responsibilities included: the coordination of national research programmes together with the EU's Joint Programming, the cooperation with intergovernmental research organisations (EIROforum, EUREKA, COST), all investments into Research Infrastructures, into the Regions of Knowledge, the Research Potential and the relations with the European Investment Bank (EIB) regarding the risk funding of research.

Robert-Jan Smits was born in 1958.

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