

## **Alain Ratier**

### **Director-General**

Alain Ratier was appointed EUMETSAT's fourth Director-General on 1 August 2011. His tenure so far has seen the launch of the third Meteosat Second Generation (MSG-3) and Metop-B satellites, the start of the development of the Meteosat Third



Generation (MTG) system and preparation of the next generation EUMETSAT Polar System Second Generation (EPS-SG) programme. Under his leadership, the role of EUMETSAT in the EU Copernicus programme has been recognised and the organisation prepared for the operation of the Sentinel-3 and Jason-3 ocean satellites. He has also overseen the expansion of EUMETSAT's membership, with Estonia, Lithuania and Iceland becoming Member States in 2013-2014.

Between 2004 and 2011, Mr Ratier was Deputy Director-General of Météo-France.

Mr Ratier already played a part in shaping EUMETSAT as Director of Programme Development and deputy to the Director-General between 1996 and 2004. During this time, he guided the development of the MSG and EUMETSAT Polar System programmes and EUMETSAT's contribution to Jason-2. He also designed the process for establishing user requirements for future EUMETSAT programmes, starting with MTG, to ensure that programmes provide Member States with maximum value.

From 1987 to 1996 Mr Ratier was a Programme Manager and subsequently Associate Director for Earth Observation Programmes at the French Space Agency (CNES). There, he contributed to the expansion of the French Earth observation programme to include atmospheric, oceanographic and climate sciences and data assimilation.

Mr Ratier's career began at Météo-France in 1983, where he spent five years in research and development activities and modelling of the upper ocean and air-sea interactions and data assimilation.

Mr Ratier graduated from the École Polytechnique in 1981. He was awarded an engineering diploma from the French National School of Meteorology and also holds a degree in oceanography from Paris VI University, both received in 1983. He is a member of the French Marine Academy and the Air and Space Academy.

Mr Ratier is married with three children.