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Stephen is currently Senior Adviser in the Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes, ESA, with responsibility for future EO strategy and advice on, particularly, relations to external bodies. He has been involved in the development of GEO since its inception in 2003, and is currently Chairman of the GCOS Steering Committee. Prior to his current role he has been (2010-2013) Head of the EO Programmes and Coordination Office of ESA, and (200-2010) Head of the Department of Earth Observation Science, Applications & Future Technologies where he was responsible for the exploitation of ESA EO missions (for science, public sector, including Copernicus, and commercial applications), future EO technologies programme, studies relating to future missions and interface between ESA's EO missions with user communities.

Before joining ESA in 2000, Stephen worked as Director, Earth Observation British National Space Centre & Head, Earth Observation NERC, UK (1994-2000), and was Chairman of the ESA Programme Board on Earth Observation (1996-1999).

Stephen has a B.Sc (First Class Honours) in Astronomy, and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University College London. He is an Elected Fellow of University College London (2006). He has 70+ papers in journals, proceedings and books. He is a Visiting Professor in the Department of Meteorology, University of Reading.
