



Dr. Roland Schenkel, a German national, is Director-General of the Joint Research Centre, a Directorate-General of the European Commission comprising 2,700 staff in seven research Institutes located in five EU Member States (Belgium, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Spain).

Dr. Schenkel studied physics at the Technical University in Karlsruhe, Germany. After his post-doctorate at the Centre d'Etude Nucléaires (CEA) in Grenoble in 1977, he was initially employed at a Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing facility in Karlsruhe before moving to the Euratom Safeguards Office of the European Commission in Luxembourg from 1979 until 1994, where he was involved, in particular, in redesigning partnership programmes with the IAEA

In 1994, Dr. Schenkel joined the JRC's Institute for Transuranium Elements (ITU) in Karlsruhe, where he later became Director of the Institute in 2000. During this time he worked on the development of modern equipment for the measurement and verification of nuclear materials. He also played a prominent role in advancing nuclear forensic technologies and worked directly on the 1994 Munich airport plutonium find.

In June 2002, Dr. Schenkel moved to Brussels as Deputy Director-General of the Joint Research Centre. He was appointed Director-General of the JRC in November 2005, where he has since overseen a refocusing of the organisation's core activities and performance. In early 2009, the JRC's support to robust EU policy-making was widely praised by an independent international evaluation panel led by the former UK Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir David King. Dr. Schenkel has been a member of prestigious evaluation committees such as of the IAEA Safeguards Department and is a member of the Generation IV Policy Group. He retains an active role in co-organising mainstream nuclear energy conferences and is a patron of the Euro Science Open Forum.

Dr. Schenkel continues to publish, counting over 100 publications in his name, the most recent being on laser fission. He was awarded a Doctor Honoris Causa by the Russian Academy of Science in 2002.



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