



**Dr. Robert AYMAR**  
Director-General of CERN

### **Last positions held**

- Since January 2004: Director-General of CERN (*European Organization for Nuclear Research*)
- 1994 – 2003: Director of ITER (*International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor*)
- 1990 – 1994: Director of the Physical Sciences, Fundamental Research Division of the CEA (*French Atomic Energy Commission*)

### **Experience in management and implementation of research programmes**

R. Aymar, after studying at the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, entered the Corps des Poudres, a former French governmental agency involved in basic and applied research. In 1959 he was transferred to the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), where his career focused on fundamental research in plasma physics and its applications in controlled thermonuclear fusion.

In 1977, R. Aymar was appointed Head of the Tore Supra project, a Tokamak to be built at Cadarache (France). He directed the project from its conceptual design in 1977, and throughout its construction up to its operation in 1988 when the first plasma was produced. The challenges of Tore Supra were both technological and scientific.

In 1990, R. Aymar was appointed Director of the Physical Sciences, Fundamental Research Division of the CEA. In this position, he directed a wide range of basic research programmes, both experimental and theoretical, including astrophysics, particle and nuclear physics, physics and chemistry of condensed matter, paleo-climatology, as well as thermonuclear fusion by magnetic confinement. In his capacity of Director, R. Aymar created DAPNIA, Department of Astrophysics, Particle Physics, Nuclear Physics, and Associated Instrumentation, as well as LCME – a new laboratory for Climate and Environmental Modelling.

R. Aymar took a leading role in the development of the European Fusion Programme, and was involved in the ITER project since its conception in 1987. He was appointed Director of ITER by the ITER Council in July 1994, and until 2003 he led this large international collaborative project, which has the objective to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy as a viable energy source for mankind in the future.

R. Aymar was appointed Director-General of CERN as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004 for a period of five years. He has the function of Chief Executive of the largest European Intergovernmental Research Organization with annual budget exceeding 1 billion Swiss francs and some 2,600 staff and 750 postdoctoral Fellows and Associates. R. Aymar has the main responsibility for running the laboratory and completing in 2008 the Large Hadron Collider – the flagship project of CERN, the largest and most complex scientific instrument ever constructed by mankind, worth a total investment of 4 billion euros, in which more than 80 countries are involved.

## **Roles in Advisory and Steering Committees**

- 2007, Member of the Expert Working Group on Optimizing Research Programmes and Priorities, set up by the European Commission for the follow-up process of the ERA Green Paper.
- 2001, Chairman of the External Review Committee, appointed by the CERN Council to review and evaluate the scientific programs and the management of the Organization.
- 1985 – 1994, Chairman of the European Fusion Technology Steering Committee
- 1988 – 1994, Member of the Fusion Industrial Committee
- 1990 - 1994, Member of the Board of Directors of CEA
- 1990 – 1994, Member of the Council of the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, the Institute Laue-Langevin, and the Joint European Torus
- 1984 – 1994, Member of the Scientific Council of the Joint European Torus and Max-Planck Plasma Physics Institute
- 1993, Chairman of the LHC International Review Committee, appointed by the CERN Council to review the final LHC proposal and to recommend it to the Council for approval.

## **International Awards**

### **2006 Global Energy International Prize**

Awarded by Russian President Vladimir Putin:

*“For the development of scientific and engineering foundation for building the International Thermonuclear Reactor (ITER Project)”*

### **2003 Distinguished Career Award**

Awarded by the Fusion Power Associates Board, Washington, DC:

*“For distinguished, lifelong, career contribution to fusion development”*

### **2000 Leadership Award**

Awarded by the Fusion Power Associates Board, Washington, DC:

*“In recognition of his outstanding Leadership qualities – He has effectively guided the world fusion community in the direction of practical fusion power”.*

### **1996 Department of Energy Exceptional Public Service Award**

Awarded by Mrs Hazel R. O’Leary, US DoE State Secretary for Energy:

*“In recognition of your personal dedication and outstanding leadership in directing the ITER project. Your extraordinary ability to melt diverse groups and views into a superb project team has been recognized throughout the world. You are to be commended for your managerial and technical skills and the vision of ITER that you have brought to the project”.*