Since 1985, Giovanni De Santi has been employed at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, where he developed his professional expertise by managing projects and groups of experts in the fields of energy, transport, mechanical/nuclear engineering, environmental science and management.

In 2007, he was nominated as Director at the JRC, initially of the Institute for Energy of the JRC based both in Petten (the Netherlands) and Ispra (Italy). The Institute provided technical and scientific support for the conception, development and monitoring of community policies related to the production, security, safety and sustainability of energy. In January 2011, the Institute for Energy became the Institute for Energy and Transport, and its portfolio consequently expanded to include sustainable transport.

In 2016, Giovanni De Santi became Director of the Directorate for Competences.

On 1 September 2017, Giovanni De Santi was appointed Director of the Directorate for Sustainable Resources. This Directorate provides independent scientific evidence to support the development, implementation, evaluation and coherence of EU policies, mainly in the areas of agriculture and rural development, development cooperation, environment and climate change, blue growth and fisheries, the bioeconomy, industry and trade.

Giovanni De Santi holds a university degree in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering from the
University of Pisa and a PhD degree in Fluidodynamics from the Technical University of Munich. Giovanni De Santi is author of many peer-reviewed publications in high-level scientific journals, and chairman of many international conferences.

**First name:**
Giovanni

**Family name:**
De Santi

**Category:**
Senior management

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