SPRU Friday Seminar

Date 8 November 2013
Speaker David Wilkinson (EC Joint Research Centre)
Title JRC the in-house science service of the European Commission. New directions for Horizon 2020

David Wilkinson is Director of Scientific Policy and Stakeholders Relations at the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's in-house science service. The Directorate, based in Brussels, has taken the lead role in the rapid repositioning of the JRC, reinforcing the links with policy makers in the Commission and other EU Institutions and strengthening cooperation with the science base in Member States, with industry and with international bodies. The Directorate has increased capacity in the areas of foresight, impact assessment, economic modelling and it hosts the recently launched EU Research and Innovation Observatory. It has thereby taken a central role in refocusing the JRC to effectively support the key political priorities of the European Union today and strengthening its identity as the Commission's in-house science service. Mr. Wilkinson worked for 14 years as a consulting systems engineer in the UK prior to joining the European Commission in 1995 as JRC Director of the Institute for Systems, Informatics and Safety located in Ispra, Italy. In 2002, he moved to Brussels as Director of Science Strategy, responsible for the planning and coordination of scientific programmes across the JRC Institutes. Then in 2004, he moved back to Ispra as Site Director, responsible for all aspects of the running of the site including its nuclear decommissioning and waste management projects. Mr. Wilkinson moved to his current post in Brussels in 2009. He is also the representative of the Commission to the World Exhibition 2015 in Milan. Mr. Wilkinson has a PhD in Theoretical Physics, is a Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology and a Fellow of the Institute of Physics.