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Biography of Luc Tytgat

Director of the Pan-European Single Sky Directorate

Luc Tytgat joined EUROCONTROL as Director of the Single Sky Directorate on 16 March 2011, after having worked for twenty years in the field of air transport in the European Commission and ten years in the Belgian Air Force.

Luc Tytgat began his career in aviation in 1976 when he joined the Belgian Military Academy to study aeronautical engineering. After graduating in 1981, he worked in various areas in the Belgian Air Force, ranging from jet maintenance to electronic warfare. In 1990, he obtained a Master's Degree in Public Management and moved over to the European Commission to join the Cabinet of Karel Van Miert, dealing at that time with state aid, the international market, industry policy and air transport.

For the next ten years, he worked on air transport matters in different parts of the Commission – Research and Innovation; Enterprise and Industry; Transport and Energy. At the beginning of his time there, he was deeply involved in harmonisation matters – air traffic control equipment and navigation infrastructure, laying the foundations for work on the Single European Sky that he was to lead later.

He devoted seven years to space issues, managing the Galileo programme and coordinating negotiations between Europe and the United States and Europe and Russia. He was also instrumental in developing the European Union's first space policy.

In 2006, he became Head of the Single Sky Unit at the European Commission. He was responsible for the implementation of the Single European Sky second legislative package and helped set up the SESAR Joint Undertaking. He was directly involved in extending the European Aviation Safety Agency's competencies and implementing the Framework Agreement with EUROCONTROL.

Once the regulatory groundwork of the Single European Sky had been laid, the appeal of being able to help actually implement the programme was irresistible and so he moved over to EUROCONTROL to do this in March 2011 to be appointed Director of the Single Sky.