Gabriel LAFFERRANDERIE (b. 10 Oct. 1941) received the diploma from the Institute of political science and a doctoral degree in law from the Faculty of Law of the University of Toulouse in 1966 on a thesis on the juridical regime pertaining to satellite telecommunication.

He joined CNES in July 1969 as head of the Legal Affairs division and thereafter entered to ESRO as head of the Legal Affairs Service (1971). Since 1983 up to November 2002 he has been the legal adviser of the ESA.

He has participated in various international negotiations with several European and not European actors (NASA, etc), international conferences, as well as sessions of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on Peaceful Use of Outer Space of the United Nations; he took an active part in the drafting of the ESA Convention and of several international agreements concluded by ESA, providing delegations with legal advices.

He is a member of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) –as honorary Director of the International Academy of Aeronautics- and Astronautics, the Société française de droit aérien et spatial.

He is the current president of the European Center of Space Law (ECSL), which he founded in 1989.

He has been distinguished with the title of Chevalier de l'Ordre national du mérite in France.

Dr. Lafferranderie has published extensively in legal and space law journals and books.