

Professor von Villiez studied at the Technical University Berlin in the Institute of Aircraft Navigation and Air Transport where he was awarded his Doctorate in 1962. He joined EUROCONTROL, the new Air Traffic Control Agency for the upper air space of Europe, and worked in their technical and operational planning division until 1968, when he was appointed the Founding Director of the ATC Centre Maastricht which commenced operations in 1972. For nearly 20 years he developed and guided this important centre, a new concept within Europe`s Air Traffic Control system with more than 400 employees. When he retired from this assignment in 1988, the Maastricht Centre had become THE byword for European Airspace Control and the first important step to the "Single European Sky" designed to meet the ever growing demands of European air traffic.

In 1980, he started teaching at the Technical University Aachen and was awarded a chair as Professor of Air Navigation and has since written many publications in the field of air transport and air navigation.

Professor von Villiez receives THE HARRISON AWARD for 2009 - in recognition of this outstanding contribution to the safety and efficiency of air navigation and air traffic control in Europe.