

A change in governance for SKEMA Business School: a board comprising distinguished graduates and company leaders

Jean-Philippe Courtois (Microsoft) appointed president

After 30 years at the head of SKEMA Business School, including several devoted to the merger between its two original entities, President Bernard Lecomte has decided to end his mandate. He used this opportunity to instigate a discussion on the school's governance with all members of the board and local institutions. The governance structure has thus been tightened up to better serve the school's development.

The new ten-member Board of Administration and General Assembly, set up at the end of December 2016, include figures incarnating the school's traditional north/south localities and distinguished graduates from high-profile international companies – a reflection of SKEMA's DNA (globalisation, entrepreneurship, the digital economy):

- Frédéric Allard CTO office Europe and site executive IBM; Jean-Pierre Savarino, CEO Studiel, and President of the French Riviera Chamber of Commerce representative of the PACA region founders
- Edouard Roquette, chairman of the Board of Directors, Roquette SA (SKEMA 1987) and Marc Verly, director general for Enterprise and Cities and director general of the regional institute for development of Hauts-de-France, representative of the Hauts-de-France region founders
- Didier Bonnet, executive vice president & Global Practice leader, Capgemini consulting (SKEMA 1983)
- Jean-Philippe Courtois, EVP and President, Microsoft Global Sales, Marketing & Operations, Microsoft (SKEMA 1983)
- Pierre-Antoine Dusoulier, CEO, Ibanfirst (SKEMA 2001)
- Véronique Gautier, director Giorgio Armani Perfumes and Beauty, L'Oréal (SKEMA 1983)
- Géraldine Le Meur, founding partner, The Refiners (SKEMA 1995)
- Olivier Dufour, executive director, Page Personnel (Brussels) & president of SKEMA Alumni Association (SKEMA 2001)

It is appropriate that the successor to Bernard Lecomte should be Jean-Philippe Courtois, EVP and President, Microsoft Global Sales, Marketing & Operations at Microsoft. He graduated from the school in 1983 and has been involved with SKEMA for many years; he took up his new role on 19 December 2016. For a delighted Bernard Lecomte, "This new

governance is international and atypical, completely in line with SKEMA's challenges and international expansion."

Two consultative bodies, the International Advisory Board (IAB) and the Research Advisory Committee (RAC), will provide input for the strategic dimension of the new Board of Administration. The IAB and RAC are made up of influential actors from both business and academia.

"I would like to thank Bernard Lecomte for his unwavering commitment over the last thirty years. His leadership and vision have contributed hugely to SKEMA and our business school's recognition on the international stage" declares Alice Guilhon, director of SKEMA Business School.

"I am proud and honoured to be president of SKEMA Business School, especially since I am one of its graduates. I will devote all my energy to helping Alice Guilhon and SKEMA achieve the school's ambitions" adds Jean-Philippe Courtois, EVP and President, Microsoft Global Sales, Marketing & Operations at Microsoft and recently appointed president of SKEMA Business School.

Jean-Philippe Courtois directs Sales, Marketing and Operations for over 122 branches of Microsoft worldwide. Part of his job involves designing and implementing the company's sales strategy from strategic planning to resource allocation to optimise the group's growth throughout the world for both emerging and mature markets. Apart from Microsoft, Jean-Philippe Courtois is administrator at Planet Finance (Positive Planet). He is also the co-founder of the Live for Good foundation – that supports young social entrepreneurs through digital innovation. He was formerly president of SKEMA's Strategic Orientation Committee (COS) whose mission is now included within the new Board of Administration.

About SKEMA Business School: With over 7500 students and 37 000 alumni, SKEMA Business School is a global school that trains the talents needed for 21st century companies. It achieves this through research, innovative teaching and multi-site international campuses: 3 sites in France (Lille, Sophia-Antipolis, Paris), 1 in China (Suzhou), 1 in the United States (Raleigh) and 1 in Brazil (Belo Horizonte). SKEMA is accredited by EQUIS, AACSB and AMBA.