ROSS MCINNES

Major Career Roles

Chair, Safran
CFO, Thales

Other Career Highlights

Independent Director, Engie
Executive Vice President Finance and Strategy, Kering
Vice Chair, Macquarie Capital Europe

Ross McInnes is Chair of Safran, where he has overseen governance of one of Europe's flagship aerospace and defence groups through major programme cycles, portfolio reshaping and disciplined capital allocation. His tenure has emphasised board-level stewardship of long-horizon industrial investments, risk management and sustainability in complex, regulated markets.

He is an Independent Director at Engie and Chair of the Audit Committee, contributing to strategy, audit and sustainability oversight at the European energy major, and previously served on the board of Eutelsat Communications, and Forvia (Ex-Faurecia).

Earlier in his career, Ross held a range of senior finance and strategy positions across banking and industry. He served as CFO at Thales (then Thomson-CSF), Executive Vice President, Finance and Strategy at PPR (now Kering), and interim Chair of the Management Board at Générale de Santé (now Ramsay Health Care). He was also Vice Chair of Macquarie Capital Europe. Ross began his career in international corporate finance with Kleinwort Benson and Continental Bank, holding roles in London, Rio de Janeiro, Chicago and Paris.

He brings deep cross-sector expertise in:

• Board governance & stakeholder oversight – leading listed-company boards in aerospace, energy, automobile (Forvia), infrastructure (Macquarie), and healthcare (Ramsay), with a focus on long-cycle risk, programme assurance and responsible business.

• Finance, strategy & transformation – C-suite experience across industrial and healthcare services, including Group CFO and strategy roles during periods of restructuring and market change.

• International business & economic diplomacy – appointed by France's foreign ministry as Special Representative for relations with Australia, advancing bilateral trade and investment.

Ross is a graduate in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from St John's College, University of Oxford. He has been recognised as a Commandeur de la Légion d'honneur.

He is known for his calm and pragmatic chairmanship, combining financial rigour with strategic patience while aligning government, industry and investors behind complex industrial programmes that require resilience, safety and technological excellence at scale.