

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Côte d'Ivoire Monthly Briefing October 2023

Côte d'Ivoire Summary 26 October 2023

President Alassane Ouattara (2010-present) on 17 October appoints a new government, including a new prime minister, Robert Beugre Mambé. Germany through its economic cooperation and development ministry on 13 October announces a new Sahel-Plus-Strategy to support Cote d'Ivoire's fight against terrorism. Agriculture and rural development minister Adjoumani and his South Korean counterpart Chung Hwang-Keun signed a memorandum of understanding on 18 October for the implementation of a \$10m project in the rice sector. The sector has been severely affected by India's export restrictions.

Ouattara appoints new government

President **Alassane** Ouattara (2010-present) on 6 October dissolved his government without explanation before appointing 31 new ministers, including a new prime minister, on 17 October.¹ While many positions remained unchanged, Ouattara chose to remove former prime minister **Patrick Achi**, an unexpected move given that despite the fact that he had won a comfortable victory in the September local elections in his region of **Mé (South)**.²

Robert Beugre Mambé, a close ally of the president and an influential figure in the ruling party, has been named the new prime minister. Former economy minister **Adama Coulibaly** was appointed as finance and budget minister, with the economy docket folded into the economic planning and development ministry, headed by **Niale Kaba**.³ Defence minister **Téné Birahima Ouattara**, agriculture and rural development minister **Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani** and mines, petroleum and energy minister **Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly** retained their roles.⁴ **Amadou Koné** remains transport minister and **Mariatou Koné** was re-appointed as national education minister, as was National Education, **Jean Sansan Kambilé** remains the justice minister and **Vagondo Diomandé** remains the security and civil protection minister.⁵

The foreign affairs ministry returns to **Kacou Houadja Léon Adom** after Ouattara elected **Kandia Camara** as president of the senate on 12 October. **Claude Paulin Danho** lost his role as sports minister, with this docket moved to under Mambé. **Koadio Konan Bertin** also left cabinet with his former role, reconciliation minister, being removed completely.⁶ Out of the 33 ministerial positions, only six are held by women. **Nassénéba Touré** remains the women, family and children minister and **Anne Désirée Ouloto** is again in charge of the public service ministry.⁷

Mambé is well known in Côte d'Ivoire for his role as president of the **Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI)** (independent electoral commission) between 2005 and 2010, before the serious post-electoral crisis of 2010-2011. He had assumed this crucial function in a torn country and was dismissed from his position a few months before the presidential election.⁸

¹ www.reuters.com, 17 Oct 2023

² www.africanews.com, 6 Oct 2023

³ www.reuters.com, 17 Oct 2023

⁴ www.jeuneafrique.com, 17 Oct 2023

⁵ www.jeuneafrique.com, 17 Oct 2023

⁶ www.jeuneafrique.com, 17 Oct 2023

⁷ www.jeuneafrique.com, 17 Oct 2023

⁸ www.africanews.com, 16 Oct 2023

Since 2011, Mambé has been the governor of the **Abidjan** district, a position where he oversaw the major transformations of the country's economic capital. Elected deputy in 2018, he was promoted in 2022 within the ruling **Rassemblement des Houphouetistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)**, ahead of number 3 in this formation.

Born in **Abiaté**, Mambé is also from the south of the country, like his predecessor Achi, a move made to likely help the RHDP gain support in this region, with its strong electoral base mainly in the north. He is also a defector from the main opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI) (PDCI)**.⁹

Winning 60% of municipalities and 80% of the regions in the September elections, the ruling RHDP is the favourite for the 2025 elections. Ouattara has not yet announced whether he will run for a fourth term, and if he does not, he has two likely successors - Camara and Mambé.¹⁰

Sahel Plus Strategy launched to help fight terrorism

Germany's economic cooperation and development ministry confirmed on 13 October that it will provide Côte d'Ivoire with more support to prevent the spillover of extremism from the **Sahel** region under the new Sahel-Plus-Strategy.¹¹ The collaboration aims to strengthen stability in the north where Côte d'Ivoire borders **Mali** and **Burkina Faso**, which are both facing unstable security situations and reinforce trust in the state through jobs and employment opportunities for young people. The strategy views the Sahel and coastal countries of **West Africa** as a coherent area. The funding is part of the overall commitment of €165m (\$174.01m) for Côte d'Ivoire which the economic cooperation and development ministry made available during government negotiations in Abidjan. Germany's federal minister **Svenja Schulz** noted:

*"We must not allow the somehow prosperous coastal states of West Africa to be weakened by terrorism penetrating from the north. This would not only be harmful for those countries concerned, but for Africa as a whole."*¹²

Schulz also expressed concern spillover would lead to more people fleeing their homes, and Côte d'Ivoire as a stable and comparatively economically strong country, would be particularly affected.

During the government negotiations, a total of €15m (\$15.82m) was made available for projects that directly contribute to improving the quality of life in the north of Côte d'Ivoire such as safe access to water, sanitation, health care, improved nutrition and education. The Sahel-Plus-Strategy will also set aside €45m (\$47.46m) to create new employment opportunities for young people through advising small and medium-sized companies, supporting business start-ups and enhancing professional qualifications.¹³ In addition to this, peaceful conflict resolution will be strengthened through cooperation with local authorities and civil society organisations. Climate protection and biodiversity also had been important topics during the negotiations between Côte d'Ivoire and Germany, with €75m (\$79.1m) dedicated to the development of renewable energies as well as the enhancement of energy efficiency. There will also be €30m (\$31.64m) dedicated to a strategy to re-establish national parks with their huge biodiversity and forest areas.¹⁴

The announcement by the German government comes approximately six weeks after the **European Union** indicated it would start a new military mission in West Africa to fight terrorism. At the core of this mission is the deployment of soldiers and police officers to Côte d'Ivoire, **Ghana**, **Togo** and **Benin**.¹⁵ Over the past ten years, the EU has spent €600m (\$632.86m) in civil and military missions in the Sahel and trained 30,000 members of the security forces in **Mali** and **Niger** as well as 18,000

⁹ www.africanews.com, 16 Oct 2023

¹⁰ www.france24.com, 6 Oct 2023

¹¹ www.bmz.de, 13 Oct 2023

¹² www.bmz.de, 13 Oct 2023

¹³ www.bmz.de, 13 Oct 2023

¹⁴ www.bmz.de, 13 Oct 2023

¹⁵ www.agencecofin.com, 28 Aug 2023

military personnel.¹⁶ However, these relationships have deteriorated in the wake of coups in the region, leaving the EU and Germany to turn to more stable partners like Côte d'Ivoire to bolster military capacity in the region.

Boost for Ivorian rice production via 10 million USD partnership with South Korea

Agriculture and rural development minister Adjoumani and his **South Korean** counterpart **Chung Hwang-Keun** signed a memorandum of understanding on 18 October for the implementation of a \$10m project in the rice sector. The project will be implemented in a pilot phase in the **Yamoussoukro** district for five years, before its extension to other rice production areas throughout the territory.¹⁷

The objective, as stated by the authorities, is to provide a stock of 5,500 tonnes of high-yielding rice seeds each year at the end of the project. Commenting on the project, Adjoumani underlined that the initiative will enable the creation of rice seed production complexes in country and improve rice seed productivity and distribution systems as well as the promotion of seed production technologies through the training of professionals in rice fields. This new partnership is part of the 'K-Ricebelt' project announced by South Korea in July which aims to develop the production of improved rice seeds in eight **Sub-Saharan African** countries.¹⁸

United States department of agriculture indicates that Côte d'Ivoire is the second largest importer of rice in Africa behind **Nigeria** and depends on imports for 56% of its milled rice consumption needs, translating to approximately 2.6 million tonnes per year.

Government on 21 September announced a precautionary suspension of the export of local rice and sugar, for the period from 18 September to 31 December, to protect the purchasing power of the population. The suspension was part of the "*fight against the rise of living expenses*" and was supposed to contribute to "*ensuring the supply for the national market*".¹⁹ The government warned that failing to comply with the measures could lead to sanctions.²⁰ 19 Oct 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) Sika Finance**. **India** authorises the export of 475,000 tonnes of rice to Côte d'Ivoire, **Cameroon** and **Guinea**. India previously paused exports to ensure domestic supply, negatively impacting food security in the above countries which are reliant on rice imports;

The situation regarding rice supplies in the region was further complicated when India, the world's largest rice exporter, announced on 20 July that it would also stop exporting non-basmati rice with immediate effect. It was reported then already that Côte d'Ivoire and **Guinea** would be the two most affected countries in West Africa. The new export restrictions resulted in a severe increase in prices, from \$480 per tonne at the end of June to currently around \$640.²¹ Despite these obstacles, Côte d'Ivoire country plans to increase its local production of milled rice by 27% through a raft of measures to bring stocks to 1.4 million tonnes in 2023.²²

Planning

<p>Jan 2024 (Côte d'Ivoire) Africa Cup of Nations</p> <p>2025 (Côte d'Ivoire) Presidential elections</p>
--

Chronology

¹⁶ www.euractiv.fr, 13 Sept 2023

¹⁷ www.millingmea.com, 23 Oct 2023

¹⁸ www.millingmea.com, 23 Oct 2023

¹⁹ www.abidjan.net, 19 Sept 2023

²⁰ www.abidjan.net, 19 Sept 2023

²¹ www.abidjan.net, 19 Sept 2023

²² www.millingmea.com, 23 Oct 2023

25 Oct 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Reuters*. **Coffee and Cocoa Council (CCC)** director general **Yves Brahima Kone** says the CCC is struggling to secure export contracts for the 2024/25 season as multinational companies are demanding lower prices from farmers in the region, adversely impacting both Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring **Ghana**, which currently produces two-thirds of the world's cocoa supply;

25 Oct 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **Australia-headquartered Perseus Mining** announces its quarterly results, highlighting that its **Yaouré** and **Sissingué** gold mines have produced 246,898 ounces since the start of 2023;

19 Oct 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Zawya*. Representatives from Côte d'Ivoire, **Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Guinea** and **Togo** attend the **United Kingdom-Francophone West and Central Africa Trade and Investment Forum** taking place in **London (UK)**;

9 Oct 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA News*. President **Alassane Ouattara** appoints 33 senators following the 16 September senatorial election. The constitution outlines that two-thirds of the 99-member senate must be elected and the president appoints 33. It is anticipated that former foreign affairs minister **Kandia Camara** will lead the senate;

5 Oct 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Jeune Afrique*. **Unité de lutte contre la grande criminalité (ULGC)** (serious crime unit) continues to expose information on the nationality fraud network it has dismantled, including that it could impact 120,000 passports of which at least 25,000 fakes have been identified;

5 Oct 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA News*. **Bourse régionale des valeurs mobilières (BRVM)** (regional securities exchange) receives a delegation from the **Luxembourg Stock Exchange** as part of cooperation between the two;

3 Oct 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *IMF*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** reaches a staff-level agreement with Côte d'Ivoire on the first review of its **Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility**. Completion of the review by the IMF board will lead to a \$500m disbursement;

2 Oct 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Agence Ecofin*. Agriculture minister **Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani** announces the purchase price per kilogramme of cocoa will be 1,000 FCFA (\$1.61) for the 2023/2024 campaign, an increase from 900 FCFA (\$1.45) in the previous year's campaign;

1 Oct 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Le Monde*. Former president **Laurent Gbagbo's Parti des peuples africains - Côte d'Ivoire (PPA-CI)** officially rejects the results of the September municipal and senatorial elections, claiming that the results were obtained through "fraudulent movements";

30 Sep 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Government grants a mining research permit to national mining company **Société pour le Développement Minier de la Côte d'Ivoire** for critical minerals;

27 Sep 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Jeune Afrique*. Discussions between Côte d'Ivoire and **Burkina Faso** continue for the release of two Ivorian gendarmes arrested in the village of **Kwame Yar** on Burkinabè territory along the border of the two countries, who were chasing illegal gold miners when they crossed into Burkina Faso territory. The gendarmes were transferred to **Ouagadougou** and remain in custody despite it being a minor transgression;

27 Sep 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Agence Ecofin*. Côte d'Ivoire hosts a roundtable with development finance institutions to discuss the **Abidjan-Lagos Corridor**, a 1,028-km highway that will connect Abidjan, **Accra (Ghana), Lomé (Togo), Cotonou (Benin), and Lagos (Nigeria)**;

25 Sep 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **Ecobank Côte d'Ivoire** confirms it will provide **Canadian** miner **Endeavour Mining** with \$150m in financing for its **Lafigué** gold mine;

24 Sep 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Agence Ecofin*. Finance and economy minister **Adama Coulibaly**, speaking at a **Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA)** (West African economic and monetary union) meeting, says that average economic growth for UEMOA economies is expected to reach 5.6% in 2023, praising these economies' resilience;

22 Sep 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fitch Ratings*. **United States (UK)**-based rating agency **Fitch Ratings** affirms UK-based **Endeavour Mining Plc's** long-term issuer default rating (IDR) as 'BB' with a stable outlook citing a strong financial and business profile balancing a weaker operating environment outlook;

22 Sep 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. **Bouna** court sentences a cyberactivist to two years in prison for having made videos on **TikTok** in which he makes irreverent remarks about President **Alassane Ouattara**.

About Africa Risk Consulting:

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) is a pan-African consulting company that provides timely, relevant information and advice that enables its clients to take informed investment decisions and to safeguard their reputations.

ARC's core consulting services include integrity due diligence and corporate investigations, political advisory and country assessments, opportunity monitoring and reputation risk management. Most relevant to private equity firms is ARC's integrity due diligence and corporate investigations capability. Specifically, ARC offers pre-deal integrity checks to highlight red flags before negotiations start; full detailed multi-jurisdictional reputation due diligence; and supplier and senior hire vetting and repeat due diligence for compliance programmes. ARC is unique in that it offers a 10-day delivery for a routine integrity due diligence. ARC also offers a suite of corporate investigations services from immediate investigation, evidence gathering, e-discovery, forensic accounting and whistleblower support on one end to crisis media management and regular monitoring on the other.

www.africariskconsulting.com

About ARC Briefing:

ARC Briefing is ARC's essential business information service.

Companies at any stage in their Africa expansion, whether building or communicating an Africa strategy, investing directly, expanding current operations, financing other investors, doing the legal leg-work or researching the Africa growth trend, need ARC Briefing.

ARC Briefing is an information service keeping you:

- Up to date with Country Chronologies of business-critical events
- In the know via Country Briefings on political, economic, business and operating trends. Written in-country, ARC experts analyse and comment
- Ahead with Country Planner which details future elections, budgets, regulatory changes etc.

www.africariskconsulting.com

Getting in touch

Please contact us by email info@africariskconsulting.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7078 4080



Follow us on Twitter: [@ARCBriefing](https://twitter.com/ARCBriefing)