

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Côte d'Ivoire Monthly Briefing July 2023

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#### Cote d'Ivoire Summary 14 July 2023

*Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI) (electoral commission) rejects former president Laurent Gbagbo's (2000-2011) appeal to be included on the electoral roll ahead of the September local elections. The move signals that Gbagbo still remains on the political fringes despite wanting to run in the 2025 presidential elections. German Chamber of Commerce and Industry opens a new headquarter in Abidjan on 26 June as it seeks to strengthen business ties with Côte d'Ivoire and Francophone Africa. Côte d'Ivoire launches its Green Cities Initiative programme on 12 July. The initiative, launched by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2020, promotes sustainability and resilience in urban environments.*

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#### Gbagbo excluded from electoral roll

Former president **Laurent Gbagbo's** (2000-2011) party, **Parti des peuples africains – Côte d'Ivoire (PPA-CI)**, confirmed on 30 June that the **Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI)** (electoral commission) rejected Gbagbo's appeal to be included on the electoral roll for the upcoming September local elections.<sup>1</sup> The ruling means that Gbagbo will not be able to vote in the elections. Gbagbo filed his appeal on 8 June after being struck from the roll. The PPA-CI said in a statement on 30 June that it considers his non-registration on the electoral roll a "*political manoeuvre aimed at removing him from political life*".<sup>2</sup>

The PPA-CI also affirmed its belief that the CEI is under the control of president **Alassane Ouattara** (2011-present) and his administration.<sup>3</sup> However, the document adds that Gbagbo "*is not affected by this situation*" and "*intends to fight*".<sup>4</sup> Indeed, there is a lot at stake for Gbagbo, who wants to present his candidature for the presidential elections in 2025. The CEI has not published any new communication concerning the issue on its website, seemingly standing by its initial decision.<sup>5</sup>

Gbagbo returned to Côte d'Ivoire in June 2021 after the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** acquitted him on charges of human rights abuse linked to the post-electoral violence in 2011. However, he still faces a 20-year prison sentence in Côte d'Ivoire for robbing the **Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO)** (central bank of west African states) during the post-electoral violence in 2011.<sup>6</sup> This conviction, handed down in 2018 while he was imprisoned in **The Hague (The Netherlands)**, resulted in the loss of his civic and political rights and therefore his removal from the electoral roll. Gbagbo claims he was never summoned to trial and never notified of the judgement that was handed down in his absence.

Some eight million voters are due to head to the polls on 2 September to elect new municipal and regional leaders in what is viewed as a warm-up to the 2025 presidential election. It will be the PPA-CI's first municipal election, facing off against the ruling **Rassemblement des**

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<sup>1</sup> [www.africanews.com](http://www.africanews.com), 30 June 2023

<sup>2</sup> [www.africanews.com](http://www.africanews.com), 30 June 2023

<sup>3</sup> [www.africanews.com](http://www.africanews.com), 30 June 2023

<sup>4</sup> [www.africanews.com](http://www.africanews.com), 30 June 2023

<sup>5</sup> [www.cei.ci](http://www.cei.ci)

<sup>6</sup> [www.news24.com](http://www.news24.com), 30 June 2023

**houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix (RHDP)**, which won the 2018 elections, and the opposition **Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)**.

### Germany strengthens economic ties with Cote d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire has emerged as an increasingly important partner for the **German** industry as seen through the **German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK)** opening a new representation in **Abidjan** on 26 June. With this new facility, the DIHK is now present at a total of 19 locations in 13 **African** countries and 93 countries worldwide.<sup>7</sup>

A delegation of 30 German representatives came to Abidjan for the opening ceremony – including **Anja Hajduk**, secretary of state at the economic affairs and climate action ministry and **Natalie Kolbe**, the delegate for the German industry. **Martin Wansleben**, chief executive of DIHK, said at the opening ceremony:

*“West Africa has a huge potential for trade and investment and a fairly good environment with a booming young population and a growing, increasingly connected infrastructure.”<sup>8</sup>*

Côte d'Ivoire with its central geographic location plays a crucial role for an enhanced economic development all over Africa. Furthermore, the new headquarter in Abidjan is a first reception centre for German companies, wanting to establish business in **Francophone Africa**.

Wansleben added that during their stay in Abidjan, German businesses had already expressed interest in talking to potential economic partners in Côte d'Ivoire and establishing “*some concrete*” business ties.

He highlighted that the German-Ivorian economic relationship has “*significantly increased*” over the years.<sup>9</sup> In 2021, Côte d'Ivoire exported \$502m worth of goods to Germany, namely cocoa beans, rubber, and cocoa butter. In the same year, Germany exported \$383m to Côte d'Ivoire, with goods consisting of drinks and cranes. Most recently, in April, Germany exported \$24.27m and imported \$60.45m from Cote d'Ivoire, indicating that the trade relationship is still growing and is likely to reach new heights in 2023.<sup>10</sup> Côte d'Ivoire's annual growth rate of between 6-7 % has also had a positive impact on trade with Germany.<sup>11</sup>

Furthermore, in the opinion of their German partners, Côte d'Ivoire has a growing potential regarding actions against climate change. The **West African** country is a producer of primary energy such as mineral oil and gas. For German companies, offering climate-friendly technology solutions for example in the agricultural sector, there would be lots of business opportunities, the DIHK says.<sup>12</sup>

**Christoph Kannengießner**, chief executive of the **German African Business Association (Afrika-Verein)** also highlighted in the 5 July **United Nations World Investment Report 2023** that Germany's announced investment sums in the energy sector have risen sharply – from \$24 billion in 2021 to \$120 billion in 2022. Côte d'Ivoire could be a target for this sectoral investment as in July 2022, the Italian oil company, **ENI**, announced fresh oil and gas discoveries off the coast of **Assinie**. The new discovery significantly boosts Côte d'Ivoire's potential reserves by 25% with estimates increasing from 2 billion barrels to 2.5 billion barrels.

<sup>7</sup> [www.dihk.de](http://www.dihk.de), 26 June 2023

<sup>8</sup> [www.dihk.de](http://www.dihk.de), 26 June 2023

<sup>9</sup> [www.dihk.de](http://www.dihk.de), 26 June 2023

<sup>10</sup> [www.oec.com](http://www.oec.com), 14 Jul 2023

<sup>11</sup> [www.dihk.de](http://www.dihk.de), 26 June 2023

<sup>12</sup> [www.dihk.de](http://www.dihk.de), 26 June 2023

## FAO initiative for more sustainable and resilient cities launched in Abidjan

The **Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO)** Green Cities Initiative is gaining ground in Côte d'Ivoire and on 12 July its associated programme on 12 July in partnership with **Abidjan** district. The initiative provides mechanisms for sustainable water management, preventing the risks linked to excessive use of water, high temperatures and loss of biodiversity as well as reconnect city dwellers with natural environments. Furthermore, it aims at establishing healthy consumption and contributing to a circular and fair economy by including agriculture and food.<sup>13</sup>

A ceremony to present the strategy for the development of a project portfolio was held the day before in **Abidjan-Plateau**, chaired by Abidjan district governor, **Robert Beugré Mambé**, and attended by the FAO's Côte d'Ivoire representative **Attaher Maiga** and governors and representatives of the 13 other districts.<sup>14</sup> During the ceremony, Beugré Mambé thanked the FAO for supporting the local authorities "*in the face of the challenges of urbanisation*". According to him, the annual growth rate of the population of Abidjan is 3.1 %, with 52% of the Ivorian population being urban. Beugré Mambé noted that the initiative "*presents great opportunities for jobs and resilience of cities*".<sup>15</sup> As an example, he said that 10,000 tonnes of reused waste create 250 jobs.

Maiga said that the activities of the Green Cities Initiative contain two pilot projects in collaboration with the **Institute of Circular Economy of Abidjan (IECA)**. The Ivorian Green territorial programme will be implemented within the framework of the **Technical Cooperation Program (PCT)** of the FAO with an amount of \$100,000. There will also be funding for the promotion of a technique for the bioconversion of organic waste into agricultural fertilisers and livestock feed for a total amount of \$150,000, including \$100,000 on equity.<sup>16</sup>

The FAO launched the Green Cities Initiative in September 2020, aimed at improving the livelihoods and well-being of urban and peri-urban populations in at least 100 cities around the world in the next three years, looking to have 1000 cities join by 2030.<sup>17</sup>

## Planner

2 Sept 2023 (**Côte d'Ivoire**) Local elections

28 Sept 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** First edition of the **Image and Reputation Forum, Finance Edition** à l'**Hôtel Ivoire**

January 2024 (**Côte d'Ivoire**) **Africa Cup of Nations**

2025 (**Côte d'Ivoire**) Presidential elections

## Chronology

<sup>13</sup> news.abidjan.net, 12 July 2023

<sup>14</sup> news.abidjan.net, 12 July 2023

<sup>15</sup> news.abidjan.net, 12 July 2023

<sup>16</sup> news.abidjan.net, 12 July 2023

<sup>17</sup> www.fao.org/green-cities-initiative

9 Jul 2023 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *ABYZ News*. Vice-president **Tiémoko Meyliet Kone** takes part in the heads of state and government of the **West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)** held in **Guinea-Bissau**;

8 Jul 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Africanews*. Animal and fisheries ministry establishes rest periods applicable to both artisanal and industrial fishermen to allow biological rest for fish, but the decision leaves artisanal fishermen without work for July;

7 Jul 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Reuters*. **Canadian** miner **Barrick Gold** announces the discovery of significant new gold deposits which will extend the lifetime of its **Tongon** mine until at least 2030;

30 Jun 2023 **Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)** *Sika Finance*. **Canada's Endeavour Mining** confirms the sale of two gold mines in Burkina Faso for \$300m, as it looks to expand its **Gabodala-Massawa** mine in **Senegal** and **Lafigué** mine in **Côte d'Ivoire**;

28 Jun 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *ABYZ News*. The transport ministry's regional and departmental directorates campaign for safer roads across the country and highlight the risk factors in the period marked by the rainy season;

26 Jun 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *North Africa Post*. President **Alassane Ouattara's** administration launches an initiative that will provide 5,000 youths with jobs in the sports industry, part of a wider programme aimed at providing 1.5 million jobs to youth;

25 Jun 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Inflation drops to 4.8% year-on-year in May, its lowest level in four months, driven by a deceleration in the cost of good, transport and housing and public services;

22 Jun 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *ABYZ News*. President **Alassane Ouattara** meets with his **Benin** counterpart, **Patrice Talon**, on a friendship and work visit to Côte d'Ivoire to discuss common concerns, particularly the security, economic and socio-political situation in the sub-region;

15 Jun 2023 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *ABYZ News*. Several **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** roaming services between Côte d'Ivoire and **Ghana** are officially launched in Abidjan's **Marcory** commune following the signing of a memorandum of understanding on the implementation of roaming on public mobile communications networks in ECOWAS areas.

### 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.

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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.

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Getting in touch

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

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