

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Côte d'Ivoire Monthly Briefing October 2025

Côte d'Ivoire Summary 31 October 2025

President Alassane Ouattara (2010-present) comfortably wins a fourth term of office in the 25 October 2025 presidential elections. Protests are muted and a few violent incidents are reported. However, voter turnout is at an historic low, just over 50%. Ouattara announces the new set farmgate producer price for cocoa on 1 October, setting it at a record CFA 2,800 (\$4.96) per kilogramme. This should not only help farmers and combat smuggling but was clearly designed as an election winning tactic in areas where Ouattara is not very popular. Air Côte d'Ivoire launches its first intercontinental flight to Paris (France) on 15 October.

Ouattara comfortably wins a fourth term of office

Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI) (independent election commission) on 27 October [published](#) the provisional result of the 25 October presidential elections. In line with expectations, the incumbent, President **Alassane Ouattara** (2010-present) [overwhelmingly](#) won the vote, with a percentage of just under 90%. **Jean-Louis Billion**, formerly of the **Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** but now running as an independent, came a distant [second](#) with just over 3% of the vote, while **Simone Ehivet Gbagbo**, the former first lady [gathered](#) around 2.5%. There is a small time window available to challenge these results before the **Constitutional Council** proclaims the definitive outcome. Billion has already publicly [accepted](#) the result and while Ehivet Gbagbo [considers](#) the result “*not a reflection of the will of the people*”, she is not expected to mount a challenge at the Constitutional Council, which will proclaim Ouattara president in the first week of November.

Voter turnout was [moderate to very weak](#), at around 20%, in certain parts of the economic capital, **Abidjan** and in and around **Gagnoa**, near the home of former president **Laurent Gbagbo** (2000-2011), who was excluded from this year's poll. It was moderate (between 40% and 50%) in the centre and around the cities of **Daloa** and **Yamoussoukro**. Voter turnout of over 90% was registered in the north, where Ouattara has his traditional support base. This regionalism is an issue that Ouattara has tried to symbolically address (by [starting](#) his campaign in the main western city of Daloa) and by personally announcing the farmgate price for cocoa, which is mainly grown in the centre and the west (see below) but it is an issue that requires more than these gestures, if he and his party really wish to be perceived as being in power for all Ivoirians.

A 44,000-strong [security force](#) consisting of 18,000 police, 18,000 gendarmes and 8,000 military assured public order during the elections and this has resulted in far fewer incidents than in 2020, when 85 individuals died in election-related violence. There was one major incident in the village of **Nahio** (near Daloa), where three died in an early morning attack on election day, now the object of a police inquiry and one in the capital, **Yamoussoukro**, where the offices of the CEI [were set alight](#) in the week before the election. Heavy patrols throughout the country prevented not only more incidents of this nature from happening but also pre-empted any attempt at protesting the results.

The **Front commun** of the ruling PDCI and Gbagbo's **Parti des peuples africains – Côte d'Ivoire (PPA-CI)** firmly [rejected](#) the entire electoral process at a 29 October press conference, called for fresh elections and decried the “*civil coup d'état*”, as they called it. The Front commun decried the repression meted out against their party cadres. Shortly after the election, [13 PPA-CI cadres](#) were asked to present themselves at the criminal police on unknown charges and has condemned what it terms “*the instrumentalization of the justice system*”.

Meanwhile, observers and diplomatic sources describe the [reaction](#) of the business community as positive, as investments are set to increase, especially in the extractive sector. Côte d'Ivoire under the current government, now set for another five years, is regarded as a safe and stable destination in the region, dominated as it is by perennial [insecurity and instability](#) in the three military-ruled **Sahel** countries, two of which (**Burkina Faso** and **Mali**) are facing risk of collapsing under the pressure of jihadist terrorism. Mining activities may well relocate from these countries and into the coastal states, including Côte d'Ivoire.

Farmgate rice for cocoa is set at a record CFA 2,800 per kilogramme

On 1 October, Ouattara [announced](#) the new farmgate price for coffee and cocoa at CFA 1,700 (\$3.01_) per kg and CFA 2,800 (\$4.96) per kg respectively. The new cocoa price is up 27% from the CFA 2,200 (\$3.90) fixed at mid-season in April and full CFA 1,000 (\$1.77) above the price set this time in 2024. The announcement was unusual in that it is normally the agriculture and rural development or minister the regulatory body BCC, [Bourse café-cacao](#), that releases this information ahead of harvesting season.

The objective was clearly [electoral](#). Traditionally, Ouattara is not popular among the predominantly **Baulé** planters in the centre of the country, who tend to favour the PDCI, nor does he tend to do very well in the west of the country, another key cocoa growing area where Gbagbo traditionally did well at the polls.

These calculations aside, the new price, the highest in history, was broadly [welcomed](#) by the planter community; the producers association made an election [contribution](#) worth CFA 20m (\$35,460) to Ouattara's re-election campaign. In a reasonably coordinated move, neighbouring **Ghana** decided to [increase](#) its farmgate cocoa price with 12% to bring it broadly in line with that of its neighbour and prevent smuggling, a perennial problem in the sector. Both countries, together providing 60% of the world's unprocessed cocoa, use a system of government-determined prices, in order to protect farmers from market volatility. This works generally well, except when world market prices experience a spike, as happened starting late 2024. It is in times like these that farmers in **Cameroon** and other free-market producer countries [stand to gain](#). But there is always a risk that these gains will be short-lived.

In spite of the new record farmgate prices, harvesting was [slow](#) to begin, almost certainly owing to the bad state of the roads in the cocoa growing areas, the results of unseasonably heavy rains. Côte recorded its highest output ever in the 2022/23 season with over two million tonnes produced. However, in the following season, there was a steep 25% drop to 1.67 million tonnes, a drop from which the country is slowly recovering. Overall, production is expected to [surpass](#) last season's 1.85 million tonnes but still not reach earlier record levels. This is owing to more structural problems, including ageing plantations and adverse weather circumstances as a result of climate change.

Air Côte d'Ivoire holds its inaugural intercontinental

Having been delayed a number of times, **Air Côte d'Ivoire's** first-ever intercontinental flight from **Abidjan to Paris-Charles de Gaulle (France)** [took off](#) on 15 October. Several dignitaries, including airline director **Laurent Lokou** and a high-ranking French [diplomat](#) were on the first flight with its first of two newly acquired Airbus A330-900neo airplanes.

The run between Abidjan and Paris is very lucrative and as of 15 October operated by three airlines: **Air France**, [monopolist](#) from 1940 to 2013 when it was joined by **Corsair**, and now Air Côte d'Ivoire. There are between 21 and 28 flight slots per week, which after the arrival of Air Côte d'Ivoire has been [divided](#) among them as follows:

- Air Côte d'Ivoire: seven;
- Corsair: nine;
- Air France: 12, with a minimum of seven as Air France flies daily into Abidjan.

Press reports in both countries tend to [exaggerate](#) the difference in opinions between the two countries, with some going so far as to suggest the two countries were considering closing their airspace to each other, which is untrue as flights are continuing as scheduled. What is clear is that none want to cede space but that Air Côte d'Ivoire wishes to be seen as an important new actor on this route. Lokou stated:

"We do not plan to be that little airline that stays in Africa and must contend itself with sharing two or three million passengers with 50 other companies. We want to be the entry point to West Africa and the exit from there to the rest of the continent and beyond."

Transport minister **Amadou Koné** agreed with this [sentiment](#). Koné believes that lucrative runs like Abidjan/Paris will provide the financial means that will enable Air Côte d'Ivoire, already a major player in the regional market, to [develop new routes](#) on the African continent. Key to this and part of negotiations between the two countries is timing of the flights. For instance, Air Côte d'Ivoire's connecting flights tend to depart between 11am and 2pm. Afternoon arrivals, which is currently the case, make little sense from a passenger perspective.

All these issues are currently being [negotiated between](#) the two agencies responsible: **Agence nationale de l'aviation civile (ANAC)** in Côte d'Ivoire and **Direction Générale de l'aviation civile (DGAC)** in France, the only ones authorised to determine the number of slots allocated to each airline. There is no information available on the outcome, which could bring an increase in the total number of available slots or a more equitable repartition of the existing ones. Increased capacity is certainly on the cards, since air traffic between the two cities is set to grow by [up to 7%](#) each year.

Planner

27 Dec 2025 (**Côte d'Ivoire**) Legislative elections expected

2025 (**Côte d'Ivoire**) **African Development Bank (AfDB)** annual meetings 2025

2026 (**Côte d'Ivoire**) Second edition of **Salon Internationale des Ressources Extractives et Energétiques (SIREXE)** (international exhibition of extractive and energy resources)

Chronology

27 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Le Monde*. Provisional **Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI)** (independent election commission) results indicate incumbent President **Alassane Ouattara** has secured a fourth term in office with 89% of the vote;

26 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Reuters*. Former commerce minister **Jean-Louis Billon** concedes defeat to President **Alassane Ouattara** in the presidential election, acknowledging that early results showed Ouattara with a commanding lead across much of the country;

24 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Africa Confidential*. President **Alassane Ouattara** is expected to secure a fourth term in Côte d'Ivoire's 25 October presidential election, with opposition figures either weak or barred from running;

23 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *AP News*. Candidates in Côte d'Ivoire's presidential election hold their final rallies as the campaign officially concludes ahead of Saturday's election;

23 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat*. After a fire destroys its **Yamoussoukro** headquarters, the **Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI)** (independent election commission) relocates to ensure the continuity of the 2025 electoral process;

22 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *AFP*. A court sentences 32 people to three years in prison for participating in banned demonstrations this month;

20 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA News*. **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** appoints former **Nigerian** vice president **Yemi Osinbajo** to lead its election observation mission for the presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire;

- 19 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat*. The **Commission électorale indépendante** (independent electoral commission) extends the distribution of voter cards for the 2025 presidential election until 22 October, to ensure all registered voters can collect their cards ahead of the election on 25 October;
- 17 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. Media experts in Abidjan say authorities are struggling to prevent fake news from disrupting the presidential election, as online disinformation, both domestic and foreign, runs rampant;
- 16 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *African Insider*. **United Kingdom**-headquartered non-governmental organisation **Amnesty International** calls on authorities in Côte d'Ivoire to end a crackdown on opposition protests and release those arrested;
- 16 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat*. **NSIA Banque Côte d'Ivoire** and the **Industrial Competitiveness Development Agency** sign a partnership to boost financing access and strengthen the competitiveness of Ivorian industrial firms;
- 15 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *African News*. Presidential candidate **Jean-Louis Billon**, who is also the country's largest private employer and former commerce minister, urges Ivorians not to boycott the election as change is still possible;
- 12 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Le Monde*. The **Le Front Commun**, a coalition comprising the opposition **Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** and **Parti des peuples africains – Côte d'Ivoire (PPA-CI)**, calls for daily protests ahead of the 25 October presidential election;
- 11 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA News*. Interior and security minister **Vagondo Diomandé** confirms that police arrested 237 demonstrators during an opposition march;
- 10 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA News*. The election campaign officially begins today and ends on 23 October at midnight, with President **Alassane Ouattara** officially launching his campaign at the **Sofitel Abidjan Ivoire Hotel** in Abidjan;
- 9 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *AFP*. Opposition **Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** – whose leader, **Tidjane Thiam**, courts barred from running in the election – says 13 of its members were arrested on accusations of “*plotting against the authority of state and causing breaches of the peace*”;
- 9 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat*. **Nigeria**-headquartered **Dangote Cement** launches its **Attingué** plant in Côte d'Ivoire, a 50-hectare facility with an annual capacity of three million tonnes, representing a 100 billion FCFA (\$170m) investment;
- 8 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *France24*. Presidential challenger **Ahoua Don Mello** says Ivorians “*want to end the presidency of President Alassane Ouattara*” on 25 October, saying the vote lacks a certain legitimacy due to the exclusion of major opposition figures, including former president **Laurent Gbagbo**;
- 6 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Reuters*. **Canada**-headquartered **Barrick Mining** announces it will sell its **Tongon** gold mine and related assets to Abidjan-based **Atlantic Group** for up to \$305m, as part of its effort to streamline operations and strengthen its balance sheet;
- 5 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat*. Ahead of the October 2025 presidential election, the government is strengthening its institutional and security measures to ensure a peaceful, transparent and credible vote;
- 4 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat*. Opposition **Congrès Panafricain pour la Justice et l'Égalité des Peuples (COJPEP)** delegates hold an extraordinary convention, urging party leader **Charles Blé Goudé** to ensure the party's participation in the December 2025 legislative elections;

2 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat*. President **Alassane Ouattara** holds a meeting with the **Conseil National de Sécurité (CNS)** (national security council) to discuss the security situation in the country ahead of the presidential election, highlighting operation **Espérance**, which involves the deployment of 44,000 members of the defence and security forces across the country;

2 Oct 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat*. **Conseil des ministres** (council of ministers) approves a draft budget of 17.35 trillion FCFA (\$31 billion) for 2026, aiming for 6.7% GDP growth despite global uncertainties

29 Sep 2025 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **African Development Bank (AfDB)** approves a \$117.49m financing facility for cocoa exporter, **Sucres et Denrées Côte d'Ivoire**, to help support the cocoa sector.

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

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) Pty Ltd expressly forbids the collection of information and content from ARC Briefing as data to train generative artificial intelligence models.

© Africa Risk Consulting (ARC)