

GOOGLE NEWS QUERY: PETROCI / BALEINE / CALAO · CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Ivory Coast greenlights PETROCI CI-26 for Espoir field

Saga deep read · 07 October 2026 · Score 50

The Ivorian government has authorized the creation of PETROCI CI-26, a new entity linked to the Espoir field, marking a formal state-level step in the management or development of that asset. The authorization, confirmed by government decree, signals that Côte d'Ivoire's national oil company PETROCI is restructuring or expanding its corporate vehicle specifically dedicated to the Espoir field — a move that typically precedes or accompanies commercial activity on the block.

The creation of a dedicated company vehicle such as PETROCI CI-26 is a common instrument in West African upstream governance, used to ring-fence liabilities, manage joint-venture interests, or satisfy local content and regulatory requirements tied to a specific concession. The CI-26 designation corresponds to the block reference, indicating this structure is purpose-built for the Espoir concession. The government authorization represents an early-stage administrative instrument — a corporate formation approval — rather than a signed commercial contract or a final investment decision.

For the broader Ivorian upstream sector, the move reflects continued institutional attention to the country's offshore portfolio at a time when Côte d'Ivoire is actively seeking to maximize production and revenue from existing fields and new discoveries. Espoir is an established producing asset, and the creation of a dedicated PETROCI subsidiary suggests the state intends to formalize or reinforce its participation structure in the field going forward. The precise commercial or operational trigger for this corporate action is not disclosed in available reporting, nor are partner identities or equity splits specified.

From a market-monitoring perspective, the authorization of PETROCI CI-26 is a prerequisite step that could eventually lead to procurement activity, contract awards, or field development decisions, but none of those downstream commercial events have been announced at this stage. Norwegian service companies with existing relationships in the Ivorian market should note this as an early governance signal and track subsequent government or PETROCI announcements for any indication of associated work programs, tenders, or field development planning linked to the Espoir concession.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a corporate formation authorization — an administrative instrument, not a signed contract or FID — so direct procurement outreach is premature. Norwegian service companies active in Côte d'Ivoire should monitor PETROCI and the Ministry of Mines and Energy for follow-on announcements about work programs or tenders tied to the CI-26 structure. Relationship-building with PETROCI at this stage is the appropriate commercial posture.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Track PETROCI CI-26 for any future well program announcements on the Espoir concession that could require drilling services or well intervention.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Monitor whether the new corporate vehicle triggers a field development or brownfield tie-back program on Espoir that would require subsea or floating production assets.
- **Service:** Establish or maintain contact with PETROCI's procurement division now, ahead of any work program that may flow from the formalized CI-26 entity.
- **Pipeline:** Watch for any production optimization or export infrastructure decisions associated with Espoir under the new PETROCI CI-26 corporate structure.

[Original source: Google News query: PETROCI / Baleine / Calao →](#)

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