

COTCO - CAMEROON OIL TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (CHAD-CAMEROON PIPELINE) · CHAD

Chad appoints new COTCO chairman after leadership change

Saga deep read · 24 June 2026 · Score 50

Assouyouti Mahamat became Chairman of the Board of Directors of COTCO — the Cameroon Oil Transportation Company that operates the Chad-Cameroon export pipeline — following his appointment on 11 May 2026 as Chief Executive Officer of the Chad Petroleum Company (TPC). The COTCO chairmanship transferred to him automatically under the governance structure that ties the TPC chief executive to the COTCO board seat, replacing outgoing chairman Alladoum Désiré Nandongar.

Mahamat brings a finance-heavy profile to the role. Trained as a financial engineer, he previously served as Minister for the Economy of Chad, giving him direct experience navigating sovereign budgets, fiscal negotiations, and state-owned enterprise governance. His appointment reflects a broader pattern in Chad's upstream and midstream sector of placing technocrats with macroeconomic credentials into leadership positions that bridge state petroleum interests and commercial pipeline operations.

COTCO is the operating entity responsible for the approximately 1,070-kilometre pipeline system that carries crude from landlocked Chad's Doba basin to the Cameroonian port of Kribi for export. The infrastructure remains a critical artery for Chad's oil revenues and for the export economics of any upstream development in the broader Lake Chad basin region. Leadership continuity at COTCO and TPC directly affects commercial terms, operational decisions, and the regulatory environment that international partners and service providers must navigate.

For companies active along the Chad-Cameroon corridor, a leadership transition at this level typically signals a period of relationship reset with the new chairman's office, potential review of existing service and operational frameworks, and an opportunity to position ahead of any strategic priorities Mahamat may introduce. His economy ministry background suggests a heightened focus on cost discipline, local content compliance, and revenue optimisation — areas where international contractors are routinely scrutinised during incoming leadership reviews.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a leadership appointment at an MoU-equivalent influence level — no contracts have changed hands. Norwegian service companies active on the Chad-Cameroon pipeline or considering engagement with TPC should treat this as a relationship-building trigger: identify Mahamat's advisory network, request introductory meetings through in-country representatives, and monitor whether his tenure produces any strategic reviews or tender activity along the pipeline corridor. No procurement outreach is warranted at this stage.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** Integrity management and inspection service providers should register with COTCO's new leadership team early, as incoming CEOs frequently commission operational audits of ageing pipeline infrastructure.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Monitor whether Mahamat's TPC mandate includes any acceleration of upstream tie-in projects that could require export infrastructure upgrades at the Kribi marine terminal.
- **Drilling:** Track TPC's capital programme under new leadership for indications of renewed drilling activity in the Doba basin that would feed additional throughput into the COTCO system.
- **Service:** Financial engineer leadership at TPC suggests tighter cost scrutiny on service contracts; Norwegian companies should prepare rigorous value-for-money cases for any upcoming re-tender or extension negotiations.

[Original source: COTCO - Cameroon Oil Transportation Company \(Chad-Cameroon pipeline\) →](#)

Saga Advisory

General: info@saga-advisory.com · saga-advisory.com

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN