

## Confédération Générale des Entreprises de Côte d'Ivoire

*Since 2017, DECP is cooperating with CGECI. CGECI stands for Confédération Générale des Entreprises de Côte d'Ivoire. Which is French for employers' organisation of Ivory Coast. But it stands for much more than that. CGECI really is the voice of business of the private sector in this fast growing sub-Saharan country. Fast growing? Yes, Ivory Coast demonstrates 7-9 % of economic growth yearly over the last eight years. Mr. Stéphane AKA-ANGHUI is the executive director. He shares some basic information with DECP and its partners which means an update compared to the figures we shared end 2018.*



**"Le Patronat Ivoirien"**

### Covering vital economic sectors

Currently, CGECI represents not less than 26 sector organisations and associations and 176 individual companies. This means that more than 3500 companies employing over 200.000 people and being responsible for a turn-over of more than 21 billion euros are represented. CGECI covers almost all vital economic sectors like Agrofood, Industrial Maintenance, Automotive, Logistics and Transportation, ICT, Manufacturing, Healthcare and Pharmacy and so on.

### Defend the interest of the private sector

Being the real voice of business vis-à-vis a wide range of stakeholders like governmental bodies, trade unions, foreign investors and international diplomats requires a complete set of expertise. CGECI therefore developed knowledge and expertise over the years in a variety of essential issues like Employment and Social

Relations, Education and Training, Health, Safety and Security at the workplace and Corporate Social Responsibility. CGECI is more than an employers' organisation. The main task of CGECI definitely is to defend the interests of the private sector by lobbying and advocacy. If the social aspect is the first pillar, stimulating business growth as a Business Member Organisation definitely is the second.

### Offering knowledge and experience in a variety of essential issues

CGECI supports small and medium sized companies, has a special programme to encourage young entrepreneurs to develop their business and offers services to answer day-to-day questions in many fields. Mr. Stéphane AKA-ANGHUI even sees a third pillar. That is to encourage entrepreneurs who are working in the informal sector to join the formal sector. A huge challenge, but if CGECI can realise it to a certain extent, this will definitely be in favour of economic growth of the country.

### Social dialogue and skills development

CGECI and DECP cooperate since 2017. The major issues are social dialogue and skills development. On the one hand, DECP offers a cross-cutting approach, which means that representatives of several countries in the region participate in

training activities and workshops. This allows participants to exchange challenges and experiences and to develop general insight and a 'common language' next step. On the other hand, DECP offers country specific in-depth cooperation. In 2019, 13 economic sectors were trained on skills development which allows them to apply methods to analyse the gap of skills and to get to know instruments to bridge them.

### **Members have to do what they are good at: doing business**

Furthermore, extra capacity to support them was found at the VET Toolbox in Brussels. This is a European body which offers capacity to put concrete projects in the field of skills development in place. Next January, two sectors -i.e. Agrofood and Industrial Maintenance- will benefit from this support. When this project is finalised, DECP will conduct a workshop which allows all sectors to benefit from the experiences of these projects.

### **Country specific cooperation**

Also in 2019, cross-cutting trainings on social dialogue and on lobbying and advocacy have been carried out and a next training on negotiation skills is planned next February. The DECP management and the CGECI staff recently agreed on proceeding with country specific support in these areas.

### **A settlement agreement**

Actually, this fruitful cooperation demonstrates quite some ambition for the years to come. A settlement agreement will be recorded shortly to define next steps of cooperation. This includes a high level study visit to The Netherlands, acceleration of the social dialogue process in Ivory Coast

and the Sub-Saharan region, and connecting Dutch and Ivorian companies to each other based on complementarity. Several types of internships and apprenticeships might be part of this.

### **Dedicated staff**

CGECI has a strong and influential Board of 30 members. The staff currently consist of 39 employees. Lawyers, HR specialists, tax consultants and other advisors are at the disposal of the members every day. To guarantee maximum support and to help them to overcome major challenges and have both hands free to do what they are good at: doing business and make their companies grow!



Mr. Stéphane AKA-ANGHUI:

*'CGECI contributes to a high extent to economic growth and perspective with support of DECP'*

