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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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New Ministers of Agriculture and Environment in Slovakia

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Agriculture in the Economy

Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

On April 4, 2012, Slovakian President Ivan Gasparovic named new members to his government. New Minister of Agriculture is Lubomir Jahnatek, new Minister of Environment Peter Ziga.

General Information:

On April 4, 2012, Slovakian President Ivan Gasparovic named new members to his government following parliamentary election on March 10, 2012, that led to dissolution of the previous government for a no-confidence vote over support for the European Financial Stability Fund.

Lubomir Jahnatek, new Minister of Agriculture, holds previous experience in the Slovak Government as Minister of Economy between 2006 and 2010. His professional background is in chemistry, with specialization in plastics. From 1992 to 2005 he worked for private sector companies Plastika and Duslo holding director positions in each.

Minister Jahnatek has a strong academic background as well. In 2010, he was awarded Professoriate in electro-energetic at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. He has been a member of several scientific committees at four different Slovak universities, publishing and contributing to various scientific projects.

Former Minister Zsolt Simon recommended several priorities the new Minister (Jahnatek) should pursue:

- Unbiased leadership uninfluenced by lobbyists,
- Support of domestic food products,
- A negative trade balance in the agricultural food sector, and
- (long term priority) budget and strategy planning for 2014-2012.

Peter Ziga, new Minister of Environment, served the previous two years as a member of parliament. Previously to that Minister Ziga served as State Secretary at the Ministry of Economy for four years. He also has experience from private sector, having worked for several commercial companies. In 2003 and 2004 he served as adviser to the Director General of the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO). Minister Ziga graduated from two Slovak Universities: University of Economics in Bratislava and The Technical University in Kosice.

Minister Ziga's priorities will be to finalize zoning of the Tatra National Park and work on anti-floods measures. In addition to addressing the flood matter Minister Ziga would like to address other impacts of climate change as well create some adaptation strategy. He also has identified wanting to prepare a new Act on waste and packaging.