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# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Czech Republic

**Post:** Prague

### New Ministers of Agriculture and Environment

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Agriculture in the News

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**Report Highlights:**

Czech President Vaclav Klaus named a new cabinet on July 13, 2010. The new government consists of a centre-right coalition. Prime Minister Petr Necas (Civic Democrat) said the government would diligently fulfill the coalition programs, would be fiscally responsible and would fight corruption. The cabinet should have its agenda ready by August 4th and will seek a vote of confidence in Parliament on August 10th.

## **General Information:**

The new **Minister of Agriculture**, Ivan Fuksa, has been politically active since 1990 and joined the Civic Democratic Party in 1992. His academic background is in transportation and economics: in 1986 he graduated from the University of Transport and Communication in Zilina, Slovakia. Following that, he passed his post-graduate studies at the University of Economics in Prague.

Fuksa began his professional career at the Prague Public Transit company. After two years, he worked as a teacher at a secondary technical college and a vocational school. In 1990, he became a member of the city council of his home town, Pribram, and then served as its deputy mayor and finally mayor in 2002. From 2007 until now, Fuksa was the First Deputy Minister of Finance.

His priorities as Minister of Agriculture will be negotiating fair conditions for Czech farmers within the EU after 2013, the fiscally efficient running of his department, and reducing bureaucracy and eliminating corruption. Some of his first tasks include the privatization of the state owned company, Lesy České Republiky (Forests of the Czech Republic), as well as purchasing and bringing online a new IT system for the Czech Agricultural and Intervention Fund.

The new **Minister of Environment**, Pavel Drobil, has been a member of the Civic Democratic Party since 2000. He led the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) in the recent elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament in the Moravian-Silesian Region and was subsequently elected Member of Parliament. He was selected to be vice-chairman of the Civic Democratic Party in June of 2010.

Drobil, after graduating from the Law school of the Masaryk University in Brno, started his professional career with the firm Arthur Andersen & Co as an assistant in the International Business and Tax Law Department in 1995. A year later, he became a partner in the law firm Pysny, Weber & Partners in Ostrava. During the years 2001 and 2002 he worked for the Ministry of Finance as a consultant to two Deputy Ministers (Sulc and Hejnak).

Between 2004 and 2008, he held the position of Deputy Regional Administrator for Economic Development of the Moravian-Silesian Region. From 2007 to 2010, he was Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Lesy Ceske Republiky (Forests of the Czech Republic).

One of his major goals is the improvement of air quality in the industrial areas of the Moravian-Silesian Region and in Northern Bohemia. Because he was originally preparing himself to become the Minister of Industry and Trade, he says that he wants his policy to be more accommodating to the needs of the Czech industrial sector. Due to the fact that Drobil is not coming from the Green Party, he is expected to be an amenable partner to the Ministry of Agriculture.