



Foreign Agricultural Service

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The Netherlands

Agricultural Situation

New Dutch Minister of Agriculture and State

Secretary Appointed

2002

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Report Highlights:

Dr. C.P. Cees Veerman is the new Minister of Agriculture in The Netherlands. As agricultural economist, manager and farmer, Mr. Veerman is regarded as extremely knowledgeable, and considered to be a strong supporter of reforms to better the conditions of farmers.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1], NL

On July 22, 2002, the Queen installed the new Dutch Cabinet. The new Minister of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries is Prof. Dr. C.P. Cees Veerman (b. 1949). The new State Secretary for Agriculture is Ir. J. Odink (b. 1945). Below is a brief summary of the biography of Mr. Veerman and Mr. Odink.

In 2001, Mr. Veerman was Chairman of an Agricultural Committee advising the Christian Democratic Party (CDA). The Committee's advice to the CDA was to support reforms in the agricultural sector in order to improve competitiveness and quality of production. That committee further recommended that reforms be combined with cross compliance and subsidizing nature management by the farmer. The Committee opined that some sectors, mainly arable crop farmers, would continue to need protection in order to guarantee protection of the landscape and quality of the food in the EU. Minister Veerman also owns a farm and has been a member of the boards of the Social Economic Council (SER), the National Cooperative Council (NCR), the horticultural auction The Greenery and several other commercial companies.

Prof. Dr. C.P. Cees Veerman (1949),
Christian Democratic Party (CDA).

M. Sc. at Erasmus University Rotterdam
PhD at Wageningen Agricultural University
Professor Erasmus University Rotterdam
Professor Catholic University Brabant
1997 - 2001 Chairman of the Executive Board of the Wageningen Agricultural University
2001 - Chairman of an AgCommittee advising the Christian Democratic Party.
2002 - Minister of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries

Ir. J. Odink (1945),
Lijst Pim Fortuyn (LPF), was previously member of the Liberal Party (VVD).

M. Sc. at Wageningen Agricultural University
1971 - 1980 Product Board for Livestock, Meat and Eggs
1980 - 1985 Dutch Agricultural Board
1985 - 2002 Secretary Product Board for Livestock, Meat and Eggs
2002 - State Secretary of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries