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## Croatia

### Agricultural Situation

## Petar Cobankovic Appointed Agricultural Minister 2004

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**Report Highlights:**

On December 23, 2003, Mr. Petar Cobankovic was appointed the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, replacing Minister Bozidar Pankretic. Minister Cobankovic spent most of his professional life in the Vukovar based agriculture conglomerate, Vupik. He began his political career in 1990. The following report includes a brief biography of Minister Cobankovic.

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Vienna [AU1]  
[HR]

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Petar Cobankovic was born on January 29, 1957 to an old winegrower family in Croatia's easternmost town of Ilok. He completed elementary and high school there. He earned his B.Sc. in agriculture from Agricultural College Zagreb and has specialized in wine business. He is married to Anica Cobankovic and they have four sons and one daughter. His hobbies are chess, sports and reading. According to his official biography he speaks German passively (no English).

Mr. Cobankovic spent most of his professional life in the Vukovar based agriculture conglomerate, Vupik. He started working there as the chief wine expert in 1983 and was promoted to Director of vinery subsidiary in 1989. During 1997-1998 he was Director of wine cellar Ilok, part of Vupik Vukovar.

He started his political career in 1990 as a member of (HKDS) Croatian Christian Democratic Party and he was elected as a member of the Executive Council of Vukovar Municipality. One year later he joined HDZ and was a Croatian defense leader of Ilok in Homeland war. During 1992-1993 he was assistant to the Government of Croatia's commissioner for Vukovar Municipality in charge of relations with UNPROFOR and other international organizations. From 1993-2001 he was a member of the HDZ County Committee. He was a Deputy Mayor of Ilok in exile from 1993 until 1997. From 1996-1997 Cobankovic actively participated in peaceful reintegration as a member of executive committee for agriculture. He was parliamentary representative in the House of Counties, 1997-2000 and the County Prefect of Vukovarsko-Srijemska County, 2000-2001. In 2002 he was the President of the county Committee of the HDZ Vukovarsko-Srijemska County. His official bio