



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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## Czech Republic

### Agricultural Situation

#### Czech Republic Names New Minister of Agriculture - Jan Mladek

### 2005

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**Report Highlights:**

On November 16, President Klaus named Jan Mladek the new Minister of Agriculture. Former Minister Petr Zgarba resigned on November 10 after being implicated in a land speculation scandal. Mr. Mladek, a 45-year-old Social Democrat, is the first Minister of Agriculture to have an economic (vs. agricultural) background and will enjoy the advantage of having no ties to the strong agricultural lobbying groups in the Czech Republic. He will stay in office until regular elections are held in June 2006.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Vienna [AU1]  
[EZ]

On November 16, 2005, President Klaus named Jan Mladek the new Minister of Agriculture. Former Minister Petr Zgarba resigned on November 10 after being implicated in a land speculation scandal. Minister Zgarba had been in the office since April 2005.

Ivan Mladek, a 45-year-old Social Democrat (a party member since 1995), is the first Minister of Agriculture with an economic (vs. agricultural) background. Between 1999 and 2001, he served as the first Deputy Minister of Finance. Before being appointed the Minister of Agriculture, he was an Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister. He will enjoy the advantages of having no ties to the strong agricultural lobbying groups in the Czech Republic, as well as having excellent foreign language skills. He will stay in office until regular elections are held in June 2006.