

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Kowalczyk Named Polish Minister of Agriculture

**Country:** Poland

**Post:** Warsaw

**Report Category:** Agriculture in the News

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**Report Highlights:**

On October 26, 2021, Henryk Kowalczyk was appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. The former Minister of Agriculture, Grzegorz Puda, will transition to be the Minister of Funds and Regional Policy. Henryk Kowalczyk identified the first three challenges to tackle after taking office: control the spread of African swine fever, address the issue of the high price of fertilizers on the Polish market, and finalize the work on the Polish National Strategic Plan.

On October 26, 2021, upon the request of the Prime Minister, the Polish President appointed Henryk Kowalczyk as the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Henryk Kowalczyk is a Polish politician, born on July 15, 1956, and originating from central Mazowieckie province.

In 1980, he graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Warsaw. From 1979–1990, he worked as a mathematics teacher at the Agricultural School Complex in Gołdkowo. Kowalczyk was also involved in local politics there, including his terms as the mayor of the Winnica commune in 1990–1998 and 1999–2005. From February 19 to December 31, 1998, he was the Voivode of Ciechanów. From 1997–2002, he was a member of the Mazowieckie regional council, Vice-President of the Budget Committee, and a member of the Agriculture and Review Committees.

In 2005, the same year he joined the Law and Justice (PIS) party, Henryk Kowalczyk was elected as a Member of the Parliament (Sejm) for the 5th term from the Siedlce district. In the parliamentary elections in 2007, he won a Sejm seat for the second time, and was later successfully re-elected in 2011, 2015, and 2019. He was seated in the Public Finance Committee and the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee of the Sejm. After the 2019 parliamentary elections, Kowalczyk was entrusted the position of Chairman of the Public Finance Committee of the Sejm, which he held until being appointed Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Entering national politics, Henryk Kowalczyk also started his work in the Polish government. From June 7, 2006, to November 16, 2007, he held the position of Secretary of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the government plenipotentiary for shaping the agricultural system. While working in the Ministry of Agriculture, Kowalczyk proved to be a politician who cooperated well with farmers and agricultural unions.

On November 16, 2015, he was appointed Minister without portfolio in the government of Beata Szydło (PIS). He also took the position of Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Council of Ministers. In September 2016, he was temporarily entrusted with the management of the Ministry of the Treasury, until the ministry closed on December 31, 2016. Also in September 2016, he became Deputy Chairman of the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers.

On December 11, 2017, Kowalczyk once again took the position of a Minister without portfolio and again became chairman of the Standing Committee of the Council of Ministers in the newly formed government of Mateusz Morawiecki, from the PIS party. On January 9, 2018, he was dismissed from his function and on the same day appointed the Minister of Environment. On November 15, 2019, he ended his term at the Ministry of Environment. In 2021, he was appointed by Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki to the Council of Political Advisors.

After his appointment to the position of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Henryk Kowalczyk identified the first challenges to tackle after taking the office: control the spread of African swine fever and restore pig farming in Poland, address the high price of fertilizers on the Polish market by raising the issue at the European level, and finalize the work on the Polish National Strategic Plan, which will design programs and allocate funds from the EU Common Agricultural Policy destined for Poland, in accordance with the EU climate policy.

Minister Kowalczyk also commented on his high position as the Deputy Prime Minister. In his opinion, this function gives greater opportunities to apply for more funds and certain solutions in the government for the benefit of agriculture.

The former Minister of Agriculture, Grzegorz Puda, was appointed to the position of the Minister of Funds and Regional Policy.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.