

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: New Slovak Minister of Agriculture

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Prepared By: Jana Fischer

Approved By: Emily Scott

Report Highlights:

The new Slovak Minister of Agriculture, Jan Micovsky, is an anti-corruption activist from the elections winning party, the Ordinary People and Independent Personalities (OLaNO). Micovsky is known for his strong background in forestry.

Following Slovakia's parliamentary elections on February 29, 2020, a center-right opposition anti-corruption focused party OLaNO (Ordinary People and Independent Personalities) was the winning party, with 25 percent of the votes. The party bested the long-term governing leftwing party and will have 53 seats out of the 150 in the National Council (parliament). Jan Micovsky was soon after announced as the new Minister of Agriculture.

Micovsky has a strong background in forestry. He graduated from the Secondary Technical Woodwork School and continued his studies at the Faculty of Forestry of the Technical University in Zvolen, Slovakia. He earned a doctorate degree at the Forestry Faculty of the University of Agriculture (now Mendel University) in Brno, in the Czech Republic. He worked in the Forestry Research Institute.

Micovsky built his career for almost 20 years in the state-owned company, East Slovakian Forests (later Forests of the Slovak Republic), where he grew from a timber-harvesting master all the way to a Director of the company. Starting in 2002 he worked for eight years at the general directorate of the company. Micovsky also worked in private sector, in timber and wood trade. Later, he functioned in the municipality of the Kosice city.

In 2010, Micovsky was awarded the *Biela vrana* (White Crow) annual award for his corruption fighting activities. The annual award honors people who have not been afraid to show civil courage and stand up for their values, regardless of the consequences. While working in the Forests of Slovak Republic company, Micovsky drew attention to mishandling of company assets and to public procurement manipulations.

Between 2012 and 2016 Micovsky was a member the National Council for the OLaNO party. He was not reelected in 2016, despite running again for National Council.

On March 21, 2020 he was appointed the new Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Slovakia. The new Minister's stated goal is to continue to fight against corruption, mainly in the forestry and agricultural areas. Forest conservation and efficient management remain important topics for the new administration.

From his predecessors he inherits a challenging goal to increase Slovakia's self-sufficiency in agricultural and food production. In the light of the COVID-19 crisis his priority is to support the agricultural companies that create added value. He will promote an idea of shifting the subsidies based on area to subsidies that support specific production.

Attachments:

No Attachments.