



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 5/4/2004

GAIN Report Number: SI4006

Slovenia

Agricultural Situation

Dr. Milan Pogacnik Appointed Agricultural Minister 2004

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Report Highlights:

On April 20, 2004, Dr. Milan Pogacnik was appointed the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, replacing Minister Franc. His background includes 33 years of active participation in the field of education, research and professional work in veterinary medicine. The following report includes a brief biography of Minister Pogacnik.

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

On April 20, Dr. Milan Pogacnik was appointed the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, replacing Minister Franc.

The following is a short biography of Minister Pogacnik.

First name and family name: Milan Pogacnik

Born: 30 August 1946 in Celje, Slovenia

Last Position: Professor of pathological morphology, forensic and administrative veterinary medicine at the Veterinary Faculty in Ljubljana; Dean, and a Chairman of a Institute for pathology, forensic and administrative veterinary medicine at the Veterinary Faculty

Academic Background:

- 1965 - graduated from high school (2.gimnazija in Ljubljana)
- 1971 - graduated at the Veterinary Department of a Biotechnical Faculty
- 1978 - was awarded a Masters degree in the field of pathological morphology
- 1984 - received a doctorate (Ph.D.) in the field of pathological morphology

Occupational Promotions:

- 1984 - elected assistant professor (reader) of forensic and administrative veterinary medicine and pathological morphology
- 1989 - elected senior lecturer (associate professor) of forensic and administrative veterinary medicine and pathological morphology
- 1990 - Dean of a Veterinary Faculty
- 1993 - re-elected as a Dean of a Veterinary Faculty
- 1994 - elected as University professor of forensic and administrative veterinary medicine and pathological morphology
- 1997 - re-elected as a Dean of a Veterinary Faculty
- 1994 do 1998 - member of a Council for Higher Education
- 1995 do 2001 - Chairman of the Board of Directors of University of Ljubljana
- 1996 do 2002 - member of a Council for veterinary medicine within MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food)
- from 1996 - Governor of VetNEST
- from 1996 - member of a Commission of the Council of Europe for the protection of animals during lab researches
- 1999 to 2003 - member of a Council of the Republic of Slovenia for Science and Technology
- from 2000 - Member of an Executive Board of EAEVE (European Association of Establishment of Veterinary Education)
- from 2002 - Chairman of VetNEST (Veterinary Network of Exchange Students and Teachers)
- 2001 to 2005 – re-elected as a Dean of the Veterinary Faculty
- 2003 - Chairman of a Council for Veterinary Medicine within the MAFF
- 2003 - member of a Joint Policy Committee EAEVE - FVE (Federation Veterinaire Europeane)
- 2003 - member of a Scientific Advisory Committee - ECVAM (European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods)
- 2004 - April appointed as Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food in the Republic of Slovenia

Acknowledgements and Awards:

- 1999 Honorary Symbol of Liberty of the Republic of Slovenia

Projects:

- 1990 to 1994 - Slovenian-United States collaboration project Agroforestry Development
- 1990 to 1994 - Project TEMPUS "Veterinary medicine"
- 1994 to 1999 - Integrated Rural Development – Re-cultivation of no longer cultivated Karst and hill areas with environment friendly programmers of animal husbandry and animal health
- 1999 to 2001 - Slovenian - Chinese collaboration project in Guizhou and Guangxi Provinces "Re-cultivation of no longer cultivated Karst areas with small ruminants"
- 1999 to 2001 - TEMPUS project "Introducing credit system of studies in veterinary medicine"
- 2000 to 2002 - Slovenian-Bosnian Herzegovina project "Re-cultivation of overgrown areas with small ruminants"
- 2001 to 2003 - Project EU Socrates Design of veterinarian profiles identified by market needs for the year 2020
- 2002 to 2006 - Project Concerted Action SRTSE. European network for surveillance and control of TSE in Small ruminants (5th Framework Programme)

Career Background

In his 33 years of active participation in the field of education, research and professional work in veterinary medicine, Dr. Pogacnik took an active part in preparative arrangements of certain documents, e.g. strategy and the development of agriculture, preparation of statutory and implementing acts in the field of veterinary medicine and animal husbandry. In past years, he developed a multidisciplinary research and development group, which is active in the preparation of research and technological programmes of a sustainable use of no longer cultivated agricultural areas with the use of animals, in particular in Karst regions. Technologies have been successfully introduced also in several other countries, such as China. He participated as a national co-ordinator in various research projects in the EU, e.g. project Development of a veterinary medicine in the EU until 2020.

In many years of managing the Veterinary Faculty, Mr. Pogacnik was in charge of an integration of profession in the field of education, research and operative activity. Thus, he led the Veterinary Faculty to the verification of programmes of studies according to EU standards in 1998, and in 2000/2001 also to the integration of the most exacting/demanding veterinary activities in Slovenia into one single institution. The EU experts rated the latter effort as the optimum form of organization of a small profession in a small country, which was later introduced in certain other countries, e.g. Macedonia. In parallel with those activities, he organized processes which enabled the accreditation of the Veterinary Faculty in the field of conducting the entire organization and the work of diagnostic laboratories in compliance with Slovenian and EU standards, which was achieved by the Veterinary Faculty in 2002.