

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

Matteo Renzi was sworn in on February 22, 2014 as Italy's youngest Prime Minister. On February 28, Renzi nominated Andrea Olivero (Popular for Italy) as Vice Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture, Silvia Velo (Partito Democratico) as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Environment, Barbara Degani (Nuovo Centro Destra) as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Environment, Vito De Filippo (Partito Democratico) as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Health, and re-confirmed Giuseppe Castiglione (Nuovo Centro Destra) as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Agriculture. Report contains bio information on the new appointees.

General Information:

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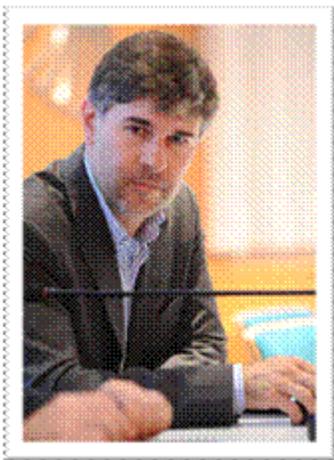
Matteo Renzi was sworn in on February 22, 2014 as Italy's youngest Prime Minister. On February 28, Renzi nominated Andrea Olivero (Popular for Italy) as Vice Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture, Silvia Velo (Partito Democratico) as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Environment, Barbara Degani (Nuovo Centro Destra) as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Environment, Vito De Filippo (Partito Democratico) as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Health, and re-confirmed Giuseppe Castiglione (Nuovo Centro Destra) as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Agriculture. Report contains bio information on the new appointees.

Italian Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Environment

Minister of Agriculture	Maurizio MARTINA
Vice Minister of Agriculture	Andrea OLIVERO
Undersecretary of Agriculture	Giuseppe CASTIGLIONE
Minister of Health	<u>Beatrice LORENZIN</u>
Undersecretary of Health	Vito DE FILIPPO
Minister of Environment	Gianluca GALLETTI
Undersecretary of Environment	Silvia VELO
Undersecretary of Environment	Barbara DEGANI

BIO NOTES – ITALIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Andrea OLIVERO



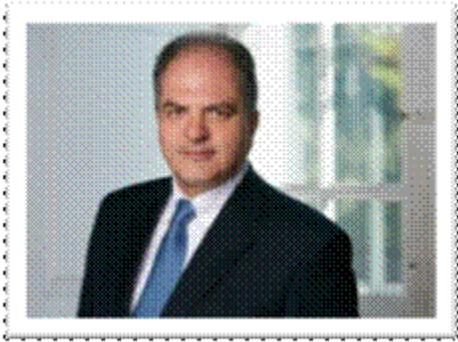
Andrea Olivero was nominated as Vice Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture on February 28, 2014. Olivero was previously the National President of the Christian Association of Italian Workers from 2006 to 2012.

Olivero graduated in classic studies at the University of Turin, later becoming a teacher in the province of Cuneo. In 1992, he was one of the promoters of the Institute of Peace, Development and Innovation (ACLI) of Cuneo. From 1997 to 2004, he was the President of the provincial ACLI. In 2002, was President of Together, an organization he founded to educate the management of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cuneo.

In 2004, he was elected Vice President of the National ACLI and, in 2006, he became the National President. From December 2008, he was the Spokesman for the Law Forum. On December 19, 2012, he resigned from the ACLI to participate in the Civic Choice political party. During the 2013 general elections he was elected Senator for Civic Choice. From March-August 2013, he was the national political coordinator for Civic Choice. In November 2013, he left Civic Choice to join the For Italy group lead by Mario Mauro. On January 28, 2014, together with Mauro, he founded a new party called Popular for Italy.

Olivero was born in Cuneo, on February 24, 1970. He graduated in Classical Studies from the University of Turin.

Giuseppe CASTIGLIONE



Giuseppe Castiglione was re-confirmed as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry on February 28, 2014. Castiglione previously held the same position under the Letta government.

In 1996 he was elected to the Sicilian Regional Assembly, and was appointed Regional Minister for Industry from 1996-1999. He was re-elected in 2001-2004, covering both the role of Regional Minister for Agriculture and Forestry and Vice President of the Sicilian Region. He was elected to the European Parliament in 2004, and was a member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. On 18 June 2008 he was elected President of the Province of Catania with an overwhelming majority of the votes (80 %). In 2009 he was elected President of the Union of Italian Provinces (UPI), and in 2010 he joined the Bureau of the Committee of the Regions.

In July 2011, he was appointed by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers to implement a body for the management of the CARA (Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers) in Sicily. During the February 2013 elections he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies with the PDL. He was appointed Undersecretary of Agriculture, Food and Forestry with the Letta government on May 2, 2013.

Castiglione was born in Bronte (Catania), on October 5, 1963. He has a Law degree from the University of Catania, and is an accredited freelance journalist.

BIO NOTES – ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Vito DE FILIPPO



Vito De Filippo was nominated as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Health on February 28, 2014. De Filippo is an Italian politician and member of the Democratic Party. He served as the President of the Italian region of Basilicata from May 2005-April 24, 2013.

At the age of twenty-six he was elected to the Provincial Council of Potenza, and was the Provincial Councilor for Health and Vice President of the Province. In 1995, he was elected Regional Councilor for Agriculture. In the 2000 elections, he was re-elected Councilor, and assumed the position of Vice President of the Regional Council and Regional Councilor for Health. In 2003, he became President of the Regional Council of Basilicata and won again in April 2005. In 2007, as a candidate for the Democratic primary in the constituency of Lauria, he received the support of Enrico Letta. In March 2010, he was re-elected as head of the Basilicata region. De Filippo has been the Regional Secretary of the Democratic Party Basilicata since September 2013.

De Filippo was born in Santa'Arcangelo, on August 27, 1963. After graduating in philosophy, he became a free-lance journalist. He has published several philosophical essays, as well as research on local history and collections of poetry. De Filippo is married and has a daughter and a son.

BIO NOTES – ITALIAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Silvia VELO



Silvia Velo was nominated as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Environment on February 28, 2014. Velo is a politician for the Democratic Party.

Velo was elected to Parliament in 2006 with the Olive Tree Party and was re-elected in April 2008 for the Democratic Party. She is the former Vice President of the Transport Committee. After completing her studies in 1995, she was elected City Councilor in Campiglia. In 1999 she was elected mayor of Campiglia with a center-left Alliance Coalition. From 1999 to 2004, she was a member of the Environment Conference of Mayors of the Val di Cornia. In January 2000, she received an appointment from UNICEF as Defender of the Rights of Children.

Velo was born in Campiglia Marittima on May 2, 1967. She has a degree in Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technologies from the University of Pisa and a PhD in Chemistry and Medicine. Velo is married and has one son.

Barbara DEGANI



Barbara Degani was nominated as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Environment on February 28, 2014. Degani is a politician for the Nuovo Centro Destro (NCD).

In 2000 she was elected regional councilor in the Veneto Region, and in 2005 was re-elected. In 2009 Degani was elected President of the Province of Padua.

She currently holds the following positions:

Vice President of the Union Provinces of Veneto (Veneto UPI)

Member of the 'Office of the Presidency of the' Union of Italian Provinces (National UPI)

Representative in the National Conference of State (UPI)

Representative in the UPI National Joint Conference

Member of the Standing Conference Veneto Region local Government

Member of the Board of the Council of Europe Commission for the Monitoring of Local Authorities (CLRAE)

Member of the Executive Board of the Association of Italian Municipalities, Provinces, Regions and other local communities (AICCRE)

From 2010 to March 2013, served as member of the Board of Directors in the Company Highways, Brescia, Verona, Vicenza, Padova SpA

Degani was born in Turin on August 11, 1966. She has a Law Degree from the University of Padua. Degani is married and has a daughter, Matilda.