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# GAIN Report

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**Date:** 2/9/2011

**GAIN Report Number:** EZ1102

## Czech Republic

**Post:** Prague

### New Minister of Environment

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

Agricultural Situation

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**Report Highlights:**

On January 17, 2011, Tomas Chalupa assumed the position of Environmental Minister after Pavel Drobil vacated the position in December 2010.

## **General Information:**

On January 17, 2011, Tomas Chalupa became the new Minister of Environment following the resignation of Minister Drobil in December after only six months in office.

Minister Chalupa holds degrees in journalism and mass communication, politics, and law from Charles University in Prague. He started his professional career in 1996 as a journalist and associate editor. He became a spokesman for President Klaus in 1997 until 1998. Since 1998 he has worked in Chamber of Deputies of the Civic Democratic Party and from 2002 until the present he was mayor of Prague (Ward) 6.

The previous Minister (also Civic Democrat) resigned after a scandal surfaced involving the State Environmental Fund.

The new Minister has identified his immediate priorities as choosing a director for the Sumava National Park, air quality protection, anti-flood measures, and a program to encourage better housing insulation. The Minister will also focus on restoring credibility to the Ministry, including conducting an audit of the State Environmental Fund.

The Social Democratic and Green parties, political rivals to the Minister's Civic Democrats, have both voiced concern over the Minister's knowledge and experience in environmental protection. Otherwise they raised no opposition to his appointment.

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