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Ireland

Agricultural Situation

New Minister of Agriculture and Food appointed

2004

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Report Highlights:

The new Irish Minister for Agriculture and Food is Mrs. Mary Coughlan

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
London [UK1]
[EI]



Ms. Mary Coughlan, has been appointed as Minister for Agriculture and Food in the shuffle of the Irish cabinet, September 29. Mrs. Coughlan formerly held the portfolio of Minister for Social and Family Affairs since 2002 and was previously (Junior) Minister of State for the Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.

Born in Donegal in 1965, she has been a member of the Irish Parliament (Dail) since 1987 having won the election for her late father's parliamentary seat at that time. While Mrs. Coughlan has been a member of many committees during her career, most of these centered on education and health, and this is her first sample of the agriculture and food sector.

Her rural constituency is the capital of the Irish fishing industry and the geographical features of the constituency makes agricultural production difficult. The main agricultural commodities produced in the area are potatoes with sheep and cattle farming providing additional sources of income. Therefore she will be well attuned to farmers striving to "survive" and will provide a sympathetic ear to her farmers.