

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: February 23,2021

Report Number: EN2021-0002

Report Name: Estonian New Agriculture and Food Board

Country: Estonia

Post: Warsaw

Report Category: Administrative, Agriculture in the News

Prepared By: Mira Kobuszynska

Approved By: Jonn Slette

Report Highlights:

On January 1, 2021, Estonia established a new Agriculture and Food Board under the Ministry of Agricultural Affairs. The new agency is the result of a merger between the former Estonian Agricultural Board and the former Veterinary and Food Board. The new agency will perform all tasks of both former institutions.

General Information:

On January 1, 2021, the Government of Estonia launched its new Agriculture and Food Board under the Ministry of Agriculture Affairs. This new agency is the result of a recent merger between the former Estonian Agricultural Board and the former Veterinary and Food Board. According to Estonian officials, the merger's objectives are to create a center of excellence, unify oversight of the entire Estonian food chain, and better meet the needs of consumers. Mr. Urmas Kirtsu, the new Director General of the new agency, stated to the press that the reorganization should facilitate customer service, increase institutional transparency, and reduce bureaucratic hurdles for clients.

The Agriculture and Food Board will continue to perform all tasks of both former institutions, the Agricultural Board and the Veterinary and Food Board. The agency is responsible for Estonian agricultural policy development and enforcing agricultural and food regulations. The Agriculture and Food Board's primary responsibilities include land improvement, crop protection, plant health, plant variety protection, seed and plant propagating material, organic farming, genetically engineered crop management, fertilizers and gardening products, animal breeding, livestock production, animal welfare, animal health, and food safety.

The Deputy Directors General are Katrin Reili, previously the Deputy Director General of the former Veterinary and Food Board, Hele-Mai Sammel, Head of the Animal Health and Welfare Department of the same agency, and Anu Nemvalts, who was previously responsible for the Department of Organic Farming and Seed of the former Agricultural Board. The new agency employs 550 people.

The phone contacts of Agriculture and Food Board officials and the locations of the regional representations in Estonia remain unchanged. Current e-mail addresses will remain valid but will change in the future. See the new agency's official [website](#) for more information.

Attachments:

No Attachments.