

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary Public

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Report Highlights:

This report contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union (CU) meetings, published between August 29 and October 27, 2014 that impact CU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are the treaty on accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Eurasian Economic Union, a schedule for issuing or amending CU technical regulations in 2014-2015, EEC Council decision No. 95 approving an updated Regulation on the procedure of joint inspections of facilities, including inspection guidelines, and EEC Collegium decision No. 189, which doubled the pork and boneless poultry TRQ volumes for Belarus in 2014.

As noted herein, Russia notified several of the SPS/TBT measures covered in this report to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

General Information:

This report contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union (CU) meetings, published between August 29 and October 27, 2014 that impact CU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are the treaty on accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Eurasian Economic Union, a schedule for issuing or amending CU technical regulations in 2014-2015, EEC Council decision No. 95 approving an updated Regulation on the procedure of joint inspections of facilities, including inspection guidelines, and EEC Collegium decision No. 189, which doubled the pork and boneless poultry TRQ volumes for Belarus in 2014.

The documents below are hyperlinked via automated translation services for readers seeking further details. Select “refresh” on your browser if the page does not translate to the end.

As of the date of publication of this report, several of the SPS/TBT measures below have been notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO), as specified in the Post comment on such measures throughout the report.

SPS MEASURES PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Publication Date: August 29, 2014

- 1. Sanitary Requirements:** On Amending Chapter II of the Unified Sanitary and Epidemiological and Hygienic Requirements for Goods Subject to Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision (Control) – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1466 Draft Customs Union Amendments to Sanitary Requirements](#).

Comment: The draft document clarifies that ascorbic acid in section 22 “Requirements for safety of food additives and flavorings” is a substance for treatment of flour. There is a 60-day EEC public comment period, starting August 29, 2014, and ending October 28, 2014.

Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and/or concerns with USDA’s enquiry point (us.spsenquirypoint@fas.usda.gov). As of the date of publication of this report, FAS/Moscow does not believe this measure has been notified to the World Trade Organization.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Publication Date: October 11, 2014

[Treaty on Accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Eurasian Economic Union Treaty of May 29, 2014](#) - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The treaty was signed by Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Armenia on October 10, 2014. It will come into effect after all four countries confirm completion of their domestic ratification procedures, but no sooner than the next day after entry into force of the EEU Treaty, that is January 2, 2015. According to the treaty, Armenia will get 1.13 percent of the customs duties from imports of goods to the EEU territory, will be able to use customs duties on some goods, including meat and meat products, which are different from rates of the EEU, until 2022,

and will start talks with members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to change its commitments in the WTO framework.

**MEETING OF THE SUPREME EURASIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL AT THE HEADS OF
STATE LEVEL
October 10, 2014**

Publication Date: October 13, 2014

EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 75. *On the Plan of Actions (“Roadmap”) for Accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Single Economic Space of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Russian Federation Taking into Account the Formation of the Eurasian Economic Union - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approves the respective roadmap, consisting of 114 items that are broken down into the following sections: information interaction, macroeconomics, currency policy, trade in services and investment, financial markets, competition policy, natural monopolies, energy, transport and infrastructure, government procurements, intellectual property, industry, agro-industrial complex, and labor migration.

EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 86. *On Entry into Force of the Protocol Amending and Supplementing the Agreement on Determining the Customs Value of Goods Moved across the Customs Border of the Customs Union of January 25, 2008 - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: According to the decision, the Protocol has entered into force. The Protocol that was signed on April 23, 2012, in particular, provides additional authority to the EEC enabling it to issue decisions on the application of customs valuation methods. Furthermore, the Protocol also clarifies the procedure of determining customs value when the seller and the buyer are related parties, and amends the procedure for delayed customs value determinations.

**10th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL
July 16, 2014**

Publication Date: September 11, 2014

EEC Council Decision No. 58. *On the Work Plan of Development of the Regulations and International Agreements in Accordance with the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union of May 29, 2014 - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approves the respective plan, consisting of 16 sections covering various aspects of EEU operations. Agricultural issues are covered in sections “IX. Industry and Agro-industrial Complex,” “X. Technical Regulation,” and “XI. Sanitary, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Measures, Consumer Rights Protection.” According to the plan, a list of sensitive agricultural goods is to be developed by December 31, 2016, while unified quarantine and phytosanitary requirements of the EEU should be drafted by December 31, 2015.

12th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL
September 18, 2014

Publication Date: October 6, 2014

EEC Council Decision No. 69. *On Amendments to the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids” (TR CU 029/2012)” - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The amendments fix a technical mistake in the current CU Technical Regulation TR TS 029/2012 “Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids” by supplementing the list of flavorings allowed for children over 5 months old with the previously omitted natural flavoring “vanillin.” As a draft, these amendments were published for public comments in November 2012 (please see GAIN report [RS1277 Customs Union Ag Times No. 9](#)) and notified to the WTO via [G/TBT/N/RUS/10](#).

EEC Council Decision No. 78. *On Amendments to Section II of the Unified List of Goods Subject to Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (Control) at the Customs Border and in the Customs Territory of the Customs Union in connection with the Entry into Force of the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision excludes food items such as food additives and flavorings, food products obtained with the use of GMOs, and mineral waters that are covered by the technical regulations (TRs) of the Customs Union (CU) from the unified list of goods that are subject to state registration. State registration for these products is still required under the relevant CU TRs. The table in Section II of the Unified List is also amended to exclude certain items (including food items from CU HS groups 02, 04, 07-09, 11-13, 15, 17-20, 22, and 25) that are covered by the CU TRs.

VIDEO CONFERENCE OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL
October 1, 2014

EEC Council Decision No. 79. *On the Schedule for Developing and Amending Technical Regulations of the Customs Union - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approves a schedule for submission of draft technical regulations or draft amendments to the CU technical regulations on agricultural-related goods to the EEC Commission for approval (i.e. after public comments have been collected and the draft has been cleared domestically in each CU member-state) as follows:

I. Development of Draft Technical Regulations:

- On Safety of Alcohol Products – I quarter of 2014
- On Safety of Tobacco Products - I quarter of 2014
- On Safety of Fish and Fish Products – I quarter of 2014
- On Safety of Feeds and Feed Additives – IV quarter of 2014

- On Safety of Potable Water Packaged in Containers – IV quarter of 2014
- On Safety of Poultry and Products of its Processing – IV quarter of 2014
- On Safety of Materials Contacting with Food Products – II quarter of 2015

II. Development of Draft Amendments to Technical Regulations:

- Amendments No. 3 to the Technical Regulation On Safety of Packaging (TR TS 005/2011) – IV quarter of 2014
- Amendments No. 2 to the Technical Regulation On Safety of Grain (TR TS 015/2011) – IV quarter of 2014
- Amendments No. 2 to the Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products (TR TS 024/2011) – IV quarter of 2014
- Amendments No. 2 to the Technical Regulation On Food Safety (TR TS 021/2011) – IV quarter of 2014
- Amendments No. 3 to the Technical Regulation On Food Safety (TR TS 021/2011) – III quarter of 2015

13th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL October 9, 2014

Publication Date: October 14, 2014

EEC Council Decision No. 94. *On the Regulation on Common Procedure of Joint Inspections of Facilities and Sampling of Goods (Products), Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance)” - original in Russian*

Summary: The decision approves a new version of the respective Regulation, originally approved by the Customs Union Decision 834 of 2011. The Regulation now also includes the guidelines for inspectors regarding the equivalence of veterinary and sanitary measures and the guidelines for inspections of third countries’ dairy, fish, meat, and slaughter establishments. As a draft, these amendments were published for public comments in May 2013 (please see GAIN report [RS1330 Updated Customs Union SPS Measure Notified to WTO](#)) and notified to the WTO via [G/SPS/N/RUS/14/Add.2](#).

EEC Council Decision No. 95. *On Amendments to the Regulation on the Uniform Procedure for Veterinary Control at the Customs Border of the Customs Union and in the Customs Territory of the Customs Union - original in Russian*

Summary: The amendments introduce requirements for replacement and bilateral veterinary certificates in the respective Regulation. As a draft, the document was published for comments in December 2013 (please see GAIN report [RS1398 Draft Customs Union SPS Measure on Veterinary Certificates](#)) and notified to the WTO via [G/SPS/N/RUS/43](#).

27th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM September 30, 2014

Publication Date: October 13, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 187. *On Draft Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission “On Amending the Unified List of Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance)” - original in Russian*

Summary: The draft decision will introduce a number of technical amendments to the Unified List of Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance). Initially, when published for comments in October 2013 (please see GAIN report [RS1373 Amendment to Customs Union SPS Measure Notified to WTO](#)) and notified to the WTO via [G/SPS/N/RUS/37](#), the document only corrected one technical error by deleting goods under HS CU heading 2852 (i.e., inorganic or organic compounds of mercury) from the List. However, the amendments were since updated to correct additional errors and omissions.

**29th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
October 14, 2014**

Publication Date: October 14, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 189. *On Amendments to the List of Goods, which are Subject to Tariff-Rate Quotas in 2014, and the Volume of Tariff-Rate Quotas for Imports of these Goods into the Member States of the Customs Union and Single Economic Space - original in Russian*

Summary: The decision, which came into force on October 24, 2014, doubled the pork and boneless poultry TRQ volumes for Belarus in 2014, to 40MT and 20MT, respectively. For more details please see GAIN report [BY1401 2014 Pork and Poultry TRQ for Belarus Doubled](#).