

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

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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 March 14, 2014, and May 15, 2014, that impact CU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are an extensive set of draft amendments to the CU Technical Regulation (TR) “On Food Safety” and Eurasian Economic Commission’s Collegium Decision No. 39 listing CU HS codes for fat and oil products, which require a declaration of conformity with the CU TR “Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products.”

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 March 14, 2014, and May 15, 2014, that impact CU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are an extensive set of draft amendments to the CU Technical Regulation (TR) “On Food Safety” and Eurasian Economic Commission’s Collegium Decision No. 39 listing CU HS codes for fat and oil products, which require a declaration of conformity with the CU TR “Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products.”

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.

Update on Kyrgyzstan and Armenia CU Bids

According to press reports, a draft agreement on Armenia’s accession to the CU should be completed by the next Supreme Eurasian Economic Council meeting, to be held in Astana on May 29, 2014. Meanwhile, the government of the Kyrgyz Republic approved and published ([in Russian](#)) a draft roadmap on the Kyrgyz accession to the CU, which is also to be considered by the CU leaders on May 29, 2014.

SPS MEASURES PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Publication Date: March 27, 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 [RS1423 Draft Customs Union Amendments to Sanitary Requirements](#).

Summary: On April 2, 2014, Russia notified this draft document to the WTO via [G/SPS/N/RUS/50](#). In particular, the document introduces a peroxide value MRL for refined palm oil, amends some existing and introduces a number of new MRLs for pesticides and chemicals in external entities, as well as specifies the requirement for phosphates in meat products. There is a 60-day EEC public comment period, starting April 2, 2014, and ending June 1, 2014. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and/or concerns with USDA’s enquiry point at us.spsenquirypoint@fas.usda.gov.

TBT MEASURES PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Publication Date: April 9, 2014

1. **CU Technical Regulations:** Draft Amendments No. 2 to the CU Technical Regulation “On Food Safety” (TR TS 021/2011) – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1431 Draft Amendments No. 2 to CU Technical Regulation on Food Safety](#).

Summary: On April 28, 2014, Russia notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of draft amendments No. 2 to the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union's (CU) Technical Regulation "On Food Safety" (draft amendments) via WTO notification [G/TBT/N/RUS/36](#).

According to Russia's WTO notification, the draft amendments took into account proposals received from the members of the Customs Union and Single Economic Space within the period of public discussion of the initial set of draft amendments to the CU Technical Regulation "On Food Safety" in 2013. Additionally, the new amendments should eliminate contradictions in the requirements established by the Technical Regulation and the Unified Sanitary-Epidemiological and Hygienic Requirements for Products Subject to Sanitary-Epidemiological Surveillance (Control), adopted by Decision of the Customs Union Commission No. 299 of May 28, 2010.

The comment period for the draft amendments to the CU Technical Regulation "On Food Safety" ends on June 17, 2014. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and concerns with the National Institute of Standards and Technology at ncsci@nist.gov.

RECOMMENDATION No. 1 OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM of January 29, 2014

Publication Date: April 1, 2014

EEC Collegium Recommendation No. 1. *On the Demand and Supply Forecasts of the Member States of the Customs Union and Single Economic Space on Some Types of Agricultural Products, Raw Materials and Food* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: In order to implement the Coordinated Agro-Industrial Policy of the Member-States of the Customs Union and Single Economic Space, approved by the EEC Supreme Council decision No. 53 of May 29, 2013, the CU members are urged to forecast their demand and supply outlook for the following agricultural goods: grain, meat and meat products (beef, pork, lamb, and poultry), milk and dairy products (in terms of milk), sugar, vegetable oils, potatoes, and eggs and egg products.

INTERNATIONAL MEMORANDA

Publication Date: April 10, 2014

Memorandum of Understanding between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the World Organization for Animal Health - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The Memorandum was signed on January 10, 2014. According to the memorandum, it is not an international treaty and does not entail any legal obligations for the Parties. The memorandum is a declaration by the Parties of their intent to cooperate through information exchanges in the sphere of veterinary science. The memorandum was written in both Russian and English, with both texts being equally authentic.

Memorandum on Cooperation between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Government of the Republic of Armenia - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The document was signed in Yerevan on April 11, 2013. According to the Memorandum, it is not an international treaty and does not entail any legal obligations for the Parties. The memorandum is a declaration by the Parties of their intent to cooperate on the issues within their competencies, including trade policy and trade facilitation, technical regulation, standardization, and SPS measures.

**MEETING OF THE SUPREME EURASIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL AT THE HEADS OF
STATE LEVEL
April 29, 2014**

Publication Date: April 30, 2014

[EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 65](#). *On the Progress on the Implementation of the Plan of Actions (“roadmap”) for Accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Customs Union and Single Economic Space of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Russian Federation* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision urges the EEC together with the CU Member States and the Armenian Government to ensure that a draft Agreement on Armenia’s accession to the Customs Union and Single Economic Space (SES) is developed by June 1, 2014, and submitted for consideration of a Supreme Eurasian Economic Council meeting.

**5th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL
April 16, 2014**

Publication Date: May 15, 2014

[EEC Council Decision No. 30](#). *On Establishing Rates of Import Customs Duties of the Common Customs Tariff of the Customs Union in Respect of Some Kinds of Chicken and Turkey Meat* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision replaces the combined import tariff of 80% but not less than 0.7 Euros per kilo with an ad valorem rate of 80% for the following out-of-quota CU HS poultry codes: 0207 14 100 9, 0207 14 400 9, 0207 14 990 9, 0207 27 100 9. The change would bring the CU tariff on these CU HS items in line with Russia’s WTO commitments.

**7th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
March 6, 2014**

Publication Date: March 14, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 36. *On Action Plan for Implementation of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “On Safety of Milk and Dairy Products” (TR TS 033/2013) - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approves the relevant action plan, which lists pending measures, such as amendments to existing CU requirements (e.g. CU TR “On Food Safety,” sanitary requirements approved by Decision 299) and national legal acts to bring them in compliance with the technical regulation of the Customs Union [“On Safety of Milk and Dairy Products”](#), including deadlines for each measure.

EEC Collegium Decision No. 38. *On Action Plan for Implementation of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “On Safety of Meat and Meat Products” (TR TS 034/2013) - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approves the relevant action plan, which lists pending measures, such as amendments to existing CU requirements (e.g. CU TR “On Food Safety,” sanitary requirements approved by Decision 299) and national legal acts to bring them in compliance with the technical regulation of the Customs Union [“On Safety of Meat and Meat Products”](#), including deadlines for each measure.

Publication Date: April 9, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 39. *On Approval of a List of Goods, for which Submission of a Customs Declaration shall be Accompanied by a Document on Assessment (Confirmation) of Conformity with the Requirements of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products” (TR TS 024/2011) - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The document approves a list of fat and oil products for food and non-food purposes that are subject to the CU Technical Regulation [“Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products.”](#) The list includes vegetable oils, food fats, margarines, spreads, milk fat replacers, mayonnaises, sauces, etc. Each item is identified by the CU HS code. The list should help identify which products require a declaration of conformity with the CU TR “Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products.”

10th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM March 25, 2014

Publication Date: March 25, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 46. *On Establishing Rates of Import Customs Duties of the Common Customs Tariff of the Customs Union in Respect of Some Kinds of Chicken Meat and Boring Machines with a Drilling Depth of not less than 200 m and Approval of a Draft Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision replaces the combined import tariff of 25% but not less than 0.2 Euros per kilo with an ad valorem rate of 25% for in-quota CU HS poultry code 0207 14 100 1. The change would bring the CU tariff on this CU HS item in line with Russia’s WTO commitments.

12th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
April 14, 2014

Publication Date: April 14, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 54. *On the Program for Development (Amendments, Revision) of Interstate Standards Containing the Rules and Methods of Examination (Testing) and Measurement, Including the Rules for Selection of Samples Required for Application and Meeting of the Requirements of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “On Safety of Certain Types of Specialized Food Products, Including Dietary Therapeutic and Dietary Prophylactic Nutrition” (TR TS 027/2012), and Carrying out of Assessment (Confirmation) of Products’ Conformity - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approves the respective program, which contains a total 16 standards to be developed/revised by 2017.

EEC Collegium Decision No. 55. *On the Program for Development (Amendments, Revision) of Interstate Standards, Voluntary Application of which Ensures Compliance with the Requirements of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids” (TR TS 029/2012), as well as Interstate Standards Containing the Rules and Methods of Examination (Testing) and Measurement, Including the Rules for Selection of Samples Required for Application and Meeting of the Requirements of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids” (TR TS 029/2012) and Carrying out of Assessment (Confirmation) of Products’ Conformity - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approves the respective program, which contains a total 49 standards to be developed/revised by 2017.

13th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
May 13, 2014

Publication Date: May 14, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 64. *On Establishing Rates of Import Customs Duties of the Common Customs Tariff of the Customs Union in Respect of Some Kinds of Timber from Some Tropical Wood Species - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision temporarily reduces the import duty on timber under CU HS code 4408 39 850 9, to zero for a period from June 13, 2014, through May 31, 2016. Currently, the CU import tariff for this item is 8.3 percent.

EEC Collegium Decision No. 71. *On Amending Item 2-1 of the Customs Union Commission Decision No. 299 of May 28, 2010 - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision amends the CU Commission Decision No. 299 to specify that the Unified CU Sanitary Requirements shall cease to apply to products covered by the CU technical

regulations “*On Safety of Milk and Dairy Products*” and “*On Safety of Meat and Meat Products*” with their entry into force as of May 1, 2014.