

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) and Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus-Armenia Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) meetings, published between October 28, 2014, and February 28, 2015 that impact EAEU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are draft Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “On Safety of Poultry Meat and Products of its Processing,” draft Agreement on the EAEU Customs Code, treaty on accession of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to the Eurasian Economic Union, and the EEC Council decision No. 113, approving a list of transitional import tariff rates for Armenia until 2022.

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) and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)¹ meetings, published between October 28, 2014, and February 28, 2015 that impact EAEU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are draft Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “On Safety of Poultry Meat and Products of its Processing,” draft Agreement on the EAEU Customs Code, treaty on accession of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to the Eurasian Economic Union, and the EEC Council decision No. 113, approving a list of transitional import tariff rates for Armenia until 2022.

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.

TBT MEASURES PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Publication Date: December 8, 2014

1. **CU Technical Regulations:** Draft Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “On Safety of Poultry Meat and Products of its Processing” – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1502 Translation of Draft CU Technical Regulation on Poultry](#).

Summary: On December 9, 2014, Russia notified this draft document to the WTO via [G/TBT/N/RUS/41](#). According to the notification, the draft “establishes requirements for poultry meat and poultry processed products aimed at ensuring health and life protection and preventing consumer deception.” The public comment period for this document expired on February 5, 2015.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Publication Date: December 26, 2014

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

Summary: The treaty was signed by Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, and the Kyrgyz Republic on December 23, 2014. It will come into effect after all four countries confirm completion of their domestic ratification procedures, but also pending entry into force of two additional protocols amending the Eurasian Economic Union Treaty and specifying special conditions and transition periods for the Kyrgyz Republic.

¹ In addition to Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus, Armenia became a member of the Eurasian Economic Union as of January 2, 2015.

**MEETING OF THE SUPREME EURASIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL AT THE HEADS OF
STATE LEVEL
December 23, 2014**

Publication Date: December 25, 2014

EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 97. *On Chairmanship in the Bodies of the Eurasian Economic Union* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision defines that the Republic of Belarus chairs the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council and the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) in 2015.

EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 98. *On the Rules of Procedure of the Eurasian Economic Commission* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision approves an updated version of the EEC Rules of Procedure defining the procedure of operations of the EEC Council and Collegium, delineation of powers between these two bodies, the rules for publishing draft decisions on the EEC website, organizing regulatory impact assessment of such draft decisions, and communicating with the Member States.

EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 99. *On the Procedure of International Cooperation of the Eurasian Economic Union* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision defines the purposes of international cooperation of the EAEU, as well as the relevant planning and reporting procedures.

**MEETING OF THE SUPREME EURASIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL AT THE HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT LEVEL
November 21, 2014**

Publication Date: November 24, 2014

EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 90. *On the Official Publication of International Agreements in the Framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, International Agreements of the Eurasian Economic Union with Third Countries and their Integration Unions and International Organizations, Decisions of the Bodies of the Eurasian Economic Union* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision establishes that the official website of the Eurasian Economic Union will be <http://www.eaeunion.org> and approves a procedure for the official publication of EAEU agreements, decisions, and related documents.

EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 94. *On the Action Plan for Implementation of the Concept of Coordinated Agro-Industrial Policy of the Member States of the Customs Union and Single Economic Space* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision approves a respective action plan which consists of 17 items in the following seven areas: agricultural forecasting, domestic support, regulation, unified requirements, development of agricultural exports, scientific and innovative development, and integrated information support. Implementation deadlines range from 2014 to 2017.

14th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL
November 12, 2014

Publication Date: November 17, 2014

EEC Council Decision No. 102. *On Amending the Unified List of Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance) - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision introduced a number of 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 introduce additional changes that appear to be technical.

EEC Council Decision No. 107. *On the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “Technical Regulation on Tobacco Products” - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The document adopts the Technical Regulation (TR) of the Customs Union “Technical Regulation on Tobacco Products” (TR TS 035/2014.) According to the Decision, the TR shall come into effect as of May 15, 2016.

15th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL
December 10, 2014

Publication Date: November 17, 2014

EEC Council Decision No. 113. *On Approval of the List of Goods and Rates that shall be subject to a Transition Period during which the Republic of Armenia shall Apply the Rate of Import Customs Duties Differing from the Rates of the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approved the respective list of goods, for which Armenia will be able to use customs duties that are different from the EAEU tariff rates until 2022. The list includes a number of agricultural items, such as some beef, pork, poultry, and dairy products; seed potatoes and peas; olives; fresh and dried fruits; some tea items; grains, including wheat and rice; starches, vegetable oils, margarine; some prepared food items, including baby food; pet food; tobacco; hides and skins; and some timber items.

1st MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL
February 4, 2015

Publication Date: February 13, 2015

EEC Council Decision No. 2. *On the List of Indicative Indices of Development of Agricultural Complex of the Eurasian Economic Union Member States - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision implements one of the items of the Action Plan for the implementation of the EAEU Concept of the Coordinated Agro-Industrial Policy approved by the [EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 94](#) above. In particular, the Member States are requested to submit annually their three-year forecasts of the listed agricultural development indicators, including the respective agricultural production, trade and investment data.

33rd MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
November 11, 2014

Publication Date: November 12, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 202. *On Draft Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission on Some Issues Related to the Implementation of the Provisions of the Treaty on Accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union of May 29, 2014, Signed on October 10, 2014 - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The draft decision would approve a list of delegation for the talks with the WTO to renegotiate Armenia's tariff commitments in connection with its accession to the EAEU. The delegation, consisting of the representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and the EEC, would be tasked with developing directives for the upcoming tariff talks with the WTO.

Publication Date: November 14, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 206. *On the Procedure for Implementation of Amendments to the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union "Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids" (TR TS 029/2012) - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision establishes a transition period before the full application of the recently approved technical amendments to the respective Technical Regulation until April 6, 2016.

34th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
November 18, 2014

Publication Date: November 18, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 209. *On Amending Paragraph Nine of 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 ceased to apply to products covered by the CU technical regulations “[On Safety of Grain](#)”, “[Technical Regulations on Oil and Fat Products](#)” and “[Technical Regulations for Juice Products from Fruits and Vegetables](#)” due to their entry into force.

37th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
December 18, 2014

Publication Date: December 19, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 233. *On the Draft Agreement on the Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approves the respective draft Agreement as well as a draft EAEU Customs Code, which should replace the current CU Customs Code governing all of the CU trade. While the new EAEU Customs Code is based on the CU Customs Code, it has an added emphasis on electronic processing of documents and preliminary information; it should introduce a “one-stop-shop” principle and will reportedly help cut the time needed for customs processing. However, the “residency principle” of the customs declaration in the EAEU, i.e. the requirement that the applicant shall submit a customs declaration only to specific customs bodies of the country where the applicant is registered or permanently lives in the EAEU, remains intact in the draft EAEU Customs Code.

EEC Collegium Decision No. 239. *On the Approval of an Action Plan for 2015-2018 in the Framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Eurasian Economic Commission and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approves the respective Action Plan, consisting of 26 items grouped by the following areas of cooperation: agriculture, production and protection of plant products, natural and biotechnological resources for food production and agriculture, food policies and nutrition, livestock production and protection of animal health.

38th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
December 24, 2014

Publication Date: December 25, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 244. *On Amendments to the Unified Veterinary (Veterinary and Sanitary) Requirements for Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance) - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision amends chapter 35 of the Veterinary Requirements to specify that the requirements for botulinum toxin apply only to canned feeds. As a draft, the amendment was published for comments in August 2014 (please see GAIN report [RS1453 Draft Customs Union Amendments to Veterinary Requirements](#)) and notified to the WTO via [G/SPS/N/RUS/73](#).

Publication Date: December 29, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 246. *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 “On Food Safety” (TR TS 021/2011), 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 “On Food Safety” (TR TS 021/2011) and Carrying out of Assessment (Confirmation) of Products’ Conformity - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approves the respective program, which contains a total 150 standards to be developed/revised between 2015 and 2017.

EEC Collegium Decision No. 252. *On Amendments to the Customs Union Commission Decision No. 607 of April 7, 2011 - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The document amends the CU form of veterinary certificate No. 35 for feeds and feed additives of animal origin in accordance with the relevant Common veterinary requirements to specify that the requirements for botulinum toxin apply only to canned feeds. Russia notified the WTO of this final rule via [G/SPS/N/RUS/93](#).

**1st MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
January 20, 2015**

Publication Date: January 21, 2015

EEC Collegium Decision No. 1. *On Amending the Unified Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union in respect to Dried and Fresh Dates - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision changes the structure of the HS item 0804 10 000 by bringing fresh and dried dates under a single HS item of 0804 10 000 0. Previously, there were two separate HS codes for fresh and dried dates, 0804 10 000 1 and 0804 10 000 9, respectively, because prior to 2013, Russia had a higher tariff rate on dried dates of 8% versus 5% tariff for fresh dates. However, under Russia’s WTO commitments the tariff rate for both fresh and dried dates was unified at 5% as of September 1, 2013, so two separate codes for dates are no longer required.

**RECOMMENDATION No. 21 OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION
COLLEGIUM of December 18, 2014**

Publication Date: December 19, 2014

EEC Collegium Recommendation No. 21. *On the Non-Applicability of Unilaterally Introduced Measures Affecting Foreign Trade in Goods to the Goods Moved in Accordance with the Customs Procedure of Customs Transit - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The document in particular recommends that Russia ensures non-application of unilaterally introduced measures affecting foreign trade to goods that are moved in accordance with the customs procedure of customs transit. The recommendation also calls on the CU Member States together with the EEC to develop a unified procedure for the CU Member States when unilateral trade measures are introduced by one of the members based on its national interests.

**RECOMMENDATION No. 3 OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
of February 10, 2015**

Publication Date: February 11, 2015

EEC Collegium Recommendation No. 3. *On Adding Statistics of Unaccounted Volumes of Foreign and Mutual Trade in the Member State of the Eurasian Economic Union - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The document recommends that EAEU Member States use the methods attached to the recommendation for computing statistics of the unaccounted volumes of foreign and mutual trade when compiling national trade statistics.