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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 April 19 and May 20, 2013, which impact CU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are: draft amendments to the “Regulation on Common Procedure of Joint Inspections of Facilities and Sampling of Goods (Products), Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance);” Decision No. 100 which reduces the current CU special safeguard duty against caramel; and Decision 107 which temporarily reduces tariffs (from 15 percent to zero for 18 months) on imports of certain fruit juice concentrates used for producing juice, beginning July 1, 2013. As of the date of the publication of this report, only the Regulation on Common Procedure for Joint Inspections has been notified to the World Trade Organization (i.e., G/SPS/N/RUS/14/Add.2).

General Information:

This report contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union (CU) meetings, published between April 19, 2013, and May 20 that impact CU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are draft amendments to “Regulation on Common Procedure of Joint Inspections of Facilities and Sampling of Goods (Products), Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance),” Decision No. 100 reducing the current CU special safeguard measure against caramel, and Decision 107 that signals future temporary zeroing of tariffs for imports of some fruit concentrates for making juice.

The documents below are hyperlinked via “Google Translate,” for readers seeking further details. Select “refresh” on your browser if the page does not translate to the end. Please note that the CU is often delayed when publishing attachments to decisions. If there is an attachment in a decision that is not yet linked, please check back again.

As of the date of the publication of this report, only the Regulation on Common Procedure for Joint Inspections of Facilities and Sampling of Goods (Products), Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance), has been notified to the World Trade Organization (i.e., G/SPS/N/RUS/14/Add.2).

SPS MEASURES PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Publication Date: May 8, 2013

Regulation on Joint Inspections: Draft Amendments to the “Regulation on Common Procedure of Joint Inspections of Facilities and Sampling of Goods (Products), Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance)” – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report *RS1330 Updated Customs Union SPS Measure Notified to WTO*.

Comment: On May 13, 2013, Russia notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of this draft document in its WTO notification: G/SPS/N/RUS/14/Add.2. The 60-day public comment period ends on July 12, 2013. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and concerns with USDA’s enquiry point (us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov).

This document is a second revision of the amendments to the relevant Regulation, which were first published by the EEC for public comments in February (see GAIN report [RS1307 Customs Union Publishes SPS Measures for Public Comment](#), notified to the WTO as G/SPS/N/RUS/14) and then in April (see GAIN report [RS1320 Customs Union Publishes SPS Measures for Public Comment](#), notified to the WTO as G/SPS/N/RUS/14/Add.1).

This draft has been supplemented with the guidelines for inspectors regarding the equivalence of veterinary and sanitary measures (for the original version of these guidelines please see GAIN report [RS1274 - Customs Union Publishes Inspection Guidelines for Public Comment](#), notified to the WTO as G/SPS/N/RUS/6) and with the guidelines for inspections of third countries’ dairy, fish, meat, and slaughter establishments, which were published for the first time.

4th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL

April 23, 2012

Publication Date: May 17, 2013

EEC Council Decision No. 27. *On draft decision of Supreme Eurasian Economic Council on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Eurasian Economic Commission* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision approves a draft decision of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council on amendments to the EEC Rules of Procedure defining the scope and procedure of the EEC involvement in the trade negotiations of the CU Parties with third countries and their associations.

EEC Council Decision No. 28. *On Draft Decision of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council “On 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 the respective draft decision and the draft Concept stated above. The draft Concept, in particular, covers the following issues: prerequisites for the formation of a coordinated agro-industrial policy; its purpose, objectives, and main directions (which include forecasting, planning, state support, regulation, requirements, SPS measures, exports, scientific and innovative development, and integrated information support; implementation mechanisms; and expected results).

**5th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL
May 16, 2012**

Publication Date: May 17, 2013

EEC Council Decision No. 30. *On Draft Treaty on Trademarks, Service Marks, and Appellations of Origin on the Territories of the Member-States of the Customs Union and Single Economic Space* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision approves the respective draft treaty, which would regulate intellectual property (IP) rights related to the use of trademarks, service marks, and appellations of origin, as well as registration of these IP items in the CU. The Parties are requested to clear the draft domestically by August 1, 2013.

**12th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
April 16, 2013**

Publication Date: April 19, 2013

EEC Collegium Decision No. 83. *On Official Website of the Eurasian Economic Commission* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision defines <http://www.eurasiancommission.org> as official EEC website and approves a procedure on how it should be maintained and updated. The new EEC website became operational on May 19, 2013. The EEC documents published before May 19 are also accessible as archives on the old EEC and Customs Union website at www.tsouz.ru.

13th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
April 24, 2013

Publication Date: April 26, 2013

EEC Collegium Decision No. 94. *On Amending the Unified Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity of the Customs Union and the Unified Customs Tariff of the Customs Union* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: As far as agricultural goods are concerned, the decision adds an additional note for HS group 02 to be used for classification purposes. The note specifies that for the Member States that make up the unified customs territory of the Customs Union the “importing country” in the term “delivered at importing country frontier” means the unified customs territory of the Customs Union.

EEC Collegium Decision No. 96. *On Amendments to Section 2.26 of the Unified List of Goods, which are Subject to Bans or Restrictions for Import or Export by Member-States of the Customs Union within the Framework of the Eurasian Economic Community in Trade with Third Countries* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision lifts restrictions on imports to Belarus of certain types of fish, seafood and related products following the abolition of the exclusive right to import these products to Belarus from third countries. The affected goods include frozen freshwater fish (CU HS group 0303), fillets and other parts thereof, except for salmon and some trout species (CU HS 0304), dried, salted fish or fish in brine, hot or cold smoked (CU HS 0305), as well as prepared and preserved crustaceans, mollusks and other aquatic invertebrates (CU HS 1605).

EEC Collegium Decision No. 100. *On Amendments to Decision of the Customs Union Commission No. 856 of November 18, 2011* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: As a result of the safeguard investigation re-initiated upon request of Ukrainian producers, this EEC decision will reduce the rate of the special safeguard duty on caramel in two stages from the current US\$ 294.1 per ton to US\$ 273.5 per ton. In addition, the special safeguard duty for caramel was extended to Brazil, which was previously exempt from the measure. The CU HS codes affected include 1704 90 710 0, 1704 90 750 0, 1806 90 500 1, and 1806 90 500 2.

14th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
May 14, 2013

Publication Date: May 15, 2013

EEC Collegium Decision No. 107. *On Draft Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission “On Establishing Rates of Import Customs Duties of the Common Customs Tariff of the Customs Union in Respect of Some Products of Juice Processing”*- original in [Russian](#)

Summary: When approved, the above mentioned draft decision would temporarily zero the import duty on raw materials for juice. In particular, the draft proposes for zero import duties on processed products from apricots and peaches (concentrates and purees for juices, CU HS codes 2008 50 610 0 and 2008 70 610 0) to be in effect from July 1, 2013, through December 31, 2014. The current CU import tariff for these products is 15%.