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Trade Policy Monitoring

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FAIRS Subject Report

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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 July 18 and August 21, 2013 that impact CU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are a number of decisions on import tariff changes affecting a wide range of agricultural goods (which appear consistent with Russia's WTO commitments), and amendments to the Regulation on Phytosanitary Control at the CU Border.

As of the date of publication of this report, FAS/Moscow does not believe these measures have been notified to the World Trade Organization.

**General Information:**

This report contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union (CU) meetings, published between July 18 and August 21, 2013 that impact CU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are a number of decisions on import tariff changes affecting a wide range of agricultural goods (which appear consistent with Russia's WTO commitments), and amendments to the Regulation on Phytosanitary Control at the CU Border.

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.

As of the date of publication of this report, FAS/Moscow does not believe these measures have been notified to the World Trade Organization.

**6<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL  
July 2, 2012**

***Publication Date: August 1, 2013***

**EEC Council Decision No. 42.** *On Establishing Rates of Import Tariff Rates of the Unified Customs Tariff of the Customs Union for Butter, Dairy Spreads, Other Fats and Butters Produced from Milk, as well as for Curds and Certain Types of Cheeses* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision effectively extends the temporary raise in CU import tariffs on some dairy products for the period from August 11, 2013, through August 31, 2013. The tariffs in question were originally raised on average from 15% to 18.3% for 90 days – from April 1, 2013, through June 30, 2013. The following CU HS codes are affected by this decision: 0405 10 110 0, 0405 10 190 0, 0405 10 300 0, 0405 10 500 0, 0405 10 900 0, 0405 20 100 0, 0405 20 300 0, 0405 20 900 0, 0405 90 100 0, 0405 90 900 0, 0406 10 200 2, 0406 10 200 3, 0406 10 200 9, 0406 10 800 0.

***Publication Date: August 6, 2013***

**EEC Council Decision No. 45.** *On Amending the Unified Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity of the Customs Union and the Unified Customs Tariff of the Customs Union in Respect of Certain Types of Goods and on Approval of Draft Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision changes the CU import tariff, including in connection with Russia's WTO tariff commitments. In particular, according to this decision, the following agricultural items will be affected by the tariff changes as of September 1, 2013: some live, chilled, or frozen fish (from CU HS groups 0301 – 0304), dairy items and birds' eggs (from 0402, 0405 – 0408), live plants (from 0602), fresh vegetables (from 0701, 0703, 0706 – 0707), fresh apples and other fruit (from 0808 and 0810), rice (1006), flour, malt, starches (from 1101, 1105, 1107 - 1108), oils and margarine (from 1507, 1512, 1514, and 1517), sausage (from 1601), sugar, sugar confectionery, and chocolate (from 1701, 1704, and 1806), pastry (from 1905), preserved

vegetables, fruit, and nuts (from 2001, 2005, 2007 – 2009), yeast (from 2102), alcohol (from 2208 and 2905), oil-cake (2304), and flax (5301).

**Publication Date: August 19, 2013**

**EEC Council Decision No. 46** *On Establishment of Rates of Import Customs Duties of the Unified Customs Tariff of the Customs Union for Certain Types of Goods in Accordance with the Commitments of the Russian Federation in the Framework of the WTO* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision affects only two agricultural HS codes, both being rice. In particular, the current tariff of 0.12 Euro per kg for CU HS 1006 10 980 0 and 1006 20 980 0 will change to “13%, but not less than 0.026 Euro per kg” and “10%, but not less than 0.045 Euro per kg,” respectively, which appears to remain consistent with Russia’s WTO tariff commitments for these two items.

**7<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL**  
**August 16, 2012**

**Publication Date: August 1, 2013**

**EEC Council Decision No. 50** *On Amendments to the Regulation on the Procedure of Phytosanitary Quarantine Control (Supervision) at the Customs Border of the Customs Union* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision introduces various amendments throughout the Regulation. As a draft, these amendments were published for public comments in November 2012 (please see GAIN report [RS1272 Draft Amendments to the CU Regulation on Border Phytosanitary Control](#)).

**23<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM**  
**August 13, 2013**

**Publication Date: August 14, 2013**

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 161** *On Amendments to Decision of the Eurasian Economic Commission’s Collegium No. 31 of March 5, 2013* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** According to the decision, the EEC SPS Department will be given more time for the publication of a list of all proposals received on a draft SPS document which indicates whether the proposals were accepted or rejected. Previously that period was set at 10 business days after the end of the relevant comment period. The decision extends the period to 30 business days after the end of the relevant comment period.

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 164** *On Draft Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission “On Establishment of Rates of Import Customs Duties of the Unified Customs Tariff of the Customs Union for Certain Types of Goods”* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** When adopted, the decision of the Council would reduce import tariffs on a number of tropical oils from CU HS groups 1511 and 1513 as of September 1, 2013, apparently in an effort to meet Russia's WTO tariff commitments for these items.

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 169.** *On the Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The Decision approves a draft of the above-referenced memorandum and authorizes EEC Minister of Industry and Agriculture, Mr. Sidorsky, to sign the memorandum. 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 exchange on issues within their competencies, including sustainable development of rural areas, food security, mitigation of the consequences of climate change on agriculture, sustainable use of natural resources (including land and water), assessment of the effect of food security on socio-economic issues, scientific research related to agri-food markets, sanitary-epidemiological well-being of the population, as well as phytosanitary and veterinary safety of the territories.