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**Report Highlights:**

This report [1] contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Armenia-Belarus-Kazakhstan-Russia Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) meetings, published between March 1 and May 8, 2015 that impact EAEU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are two SPS drafts covering sanitary requirements and identification of animals, a protocol defining the terms of a transition period for Kyrgyzstan after its EAEU accession, two decisions temporarily zeroing import tariff on industrial fatty alcohol and fertilized fish eggs, and the EEC Collegium decision No. 28, establishing transition periods for the implementation of the Customs Union (CU) Technical Regulations in Armenia. As of the date of publication of this report, FAS/Moscow does not believe any of these measures have been notified to the World Trade Organization. (WTO).

<sup>[1]</sup> Formerly reported as the 'Customs Union Ag Times' series, these reports were renamed to reflect the evolution of the Customs Union into the Eurasian Economic Union as of January 1, 2015.

## **General Information:**

This report contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Armenia-Belarus-Kazakhstan-Russia Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) meetings, published between March 1 and May 8, 2015 that impact EAEU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are two SPS drafts covering sanitary requirements and identification of animals, a protocol defining the terms of a transition period for Kyrgyzstan after its EAEU accession, two decisions temporarily zeroing import tariff on industrial fatty alcohol and fertilized fish eggs, and the EEC Collegium decision No. 28, establishing transition periods for the implementation of the Customs Union (CU) Technical Regulations in Armenia.

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, FAS/Moscow does not believe any of these measures have been notified to the WTO.

## **SPS MEASURES PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

### ***Publication Date: April 8, 2015***

1. **EAEU Sanitary Requirements and Procedures:** Draft Regulation “On Approval of Procedure for Development, Approval, Modification and Application of the Unified Sanitary-Epidemiological and Hygienic Requirements and Procedures” – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1518 Draft EAEU Regulation on Development of Sanitary Requirements](#).

**Summary:** On April 8, 2015, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), the EAEU regulatory body, published a draft regulation on the development of EAEU sanitary requirements and procedures. The EEC’s comment period for this draft started on April 8, 2015 and will close on June 13, 2015. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and/or concerns with USDA’s enquiry point ([us.spsenquirypoint@fas.usda.gov](mailto:us.spsenquirypoint@fas.usda.gov)). For potential inclusion in the U.S. official position, please send comments by June 2, 2015.

As of the date of publication of this report, FAS/Moscow does not believe this measure has been notified to the WTO.

### ***Publication Date: April 9, 2015***

2. **Identification of Animals:** Draft Regulation “On Approval of the Regulation on Agreed Approaches to the Identification, Registration and Traceability of Animals and Products of Animal Origin” – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1521 Draft EAEU Regulation on Identification of Animals and Products](#).

**Summary:** On April 9, 2015, the EEC published draft regulation on agreed approaches to the identification, registration and traceability of animals and products of animal origin. The EEC’s comment period for this draft started on March 16, 2015, and will close on May 15, 2015.

Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and/or concerns with USDA's enquiry point ([us.spsenquirypoint@fas.usda.gov](mailto:us.spsenquirypoint@fas.usda.gov)). For potential inclusion in the U.S. official position, please send comments by May 5, 2015.

As of the date of publication of this report, FAS/Moscow does not believe this measure has been notified to the WTO.

## INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

***Publication Date: May 12, 2015***

Protocol on the Republic of Armenia's joining the Treaty on Accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Eurasian Economic Union Treaty of May 29, 2014, signed on December 23, 2014 - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The Protocol was necessary since Armenia was not yet a CU/EAEU member when the Treaty was signed by Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, and the Kyrgyz Republic on December 23, 2014.

[Protocol](#) on the Terms and Transitional Provisions for the Application by the Kyrgyz Republic of the Eurasian Economic Union Treaty of May 29, 2014, Certain International Agreements Forming the Legislation of the Eurasian Economic Union, and Acts of the Eurasian Economic Union Bodies in connection with the Accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Eurasian Economic Union Treaty of May 29, 2014 - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The protocol defines the terms of a transition period for Kyrgyzstan after its EAEU accession in various spheres, such as Kyrgyz representatives in the EEC; customs operations, procedures and fees; tax issues; import tariffs and WTO commitments; trade remedies; technical regulation; SPS issues; trade in services; competition policy; regulation of natural monopolies, energy, and railway transport; public procurement, and IPR.

In particular, according to the protocol, Kyrgyzstan will switch to a common customs tariff on a step-by-step basis by 2020. Until 2020, the Kyrgyz Republic will be able to apply customs duties on a number of goods, including a handful of agricultural items, which differ from unified EAEU import tariff rates. Kyrgyzstan is expected to launch talks with the member-states of the WTO on changing its tariff commitments due to its EAEU accession.

Application of the CU technical regulations (TRs) related to food products will be phased in, with the [Customs Union Technical Regulation on Safety of Grain](#) coming into force six months after the entry into force of the Treaty on Accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Eurasian Economic Union Treaty of May 29, 2014. All other food-chain related CU TRs will become applicable in Kyrgyzstan a year after its EAEU accession. For additional information on the CU Technical Regulations related to food products please see [RS1343 Customs Union Food Technical Regulations in Force as of 1 July 2013](#), [RS1382 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Milk and Dairy Products](#), and [RS1384 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Meat](#).

**MEETING OF THE SUPREME EURASIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL AT THE HEADS OF  
STATE LEVEL  
May 8, 2015**

***Publication Date: May 12, 2015***

**EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 6.** *On the Cancellation of Sanitary-Quarantine, Veterinary-Sanitary, and Quarantine Phytosanitary Control (Supervision) at the Kyrgyz-Kazakh Part of the State Border* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision would cancel all types of SPS controls on the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border pending an EEC Council decision on the assessment and approval of Kyrgyz SPS control systems by the EAEU Member-States, but not prior to the entry into force of the Treaty on Accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Eurasian Economic Union Treaty of May 29, 2014, signed on December 23, 2014.

**EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 14.** *On the Free Trade Agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and its Member-States, for one Part, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, for the other Part* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The Decision authorizes the Chairman of the EEC Collegium, Mr. Khristenko, to sign the Free Trade Agreement with Vietnam on behalf of the EAEU, pending the completion of the necessary internal procedures by the EAEU Member-States. The Decision signals that signing of the EAEU-Vietnam FTA should tentatively take place during a meeting of the Eurasian Interstate Council on May 29, 2015.

**EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 15.** *On the Start of Talks with the People's Republic of China on Concluding an Agreement on the Trade and Economic Cooperation* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The Decision instructs the EEC to make the necessary arrangements for the start of the relevant talks with the People's Republic of China.

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM  
March 10, 2015**

***Publication Date: March 11, 2015***

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 15.** *On the Application of Anti-Dumping Measure by Means of Anti-Dumping Duty for Citric Acid Originating from the People's Republic of China and Imported to the Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision imposes an anti-dumping duty on citric acid (EAEU HS Code 2918 14 000 0) imported from China for five years as of April 10, 2015. Except for two specific producers from China identified in the decision, who will face an anti-dumping duty of 4.2 per cent and 6.82 per cent, all other Chinese companies will be subject to an anti-dumping duty of

16.97 per cent on top of the regular EAEU import duty for citric acid, currently at 0.1 Euro per kg.

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 17.** *On the Establishment of Rate of Import Customs Duty of the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union in Respect of Industrial Fatty Alcohol* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision reduces the import tariff on industrial fatty alcohol (EAEU HS Code 3823 70 000 0) from 5 per cent to zero for the period between April 10, 2015, and December 31, 2017.

#### **MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM March 31, 2015**

***Publication Date: April 1, 2015***

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 24.** *On Amendments to 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, as of May 1, 2015, on imports to Belarus of prepared or preserved fish; caviar and caviar substitutes prepared from fish eggs (classified under EAEU HS heading 1604) following the abolition of exclusive rights for importation of these products into Belarus from third countries.

#### **MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM April 14, 2015**

***Publication Date: April 16, 2015***

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 28.** *On the Procedure for Implementation of the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union in the Republic of Armenia* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision establishes transition periods for implementation of the CU Technical Regulations in Armenia. In particular, as far as CU Technical Regulations related to food products are concerned, there will be a transition period until January 2, 2018, at which point the labeling of the covered food products destined to the Armenian markets will have to include a “Eurasian Conformity” mark. For additional information on the CU Technical Regulations related to food products please see [RS1343 Customs Union Food Technical Regulations in Force as of 1 July 2013](#), [RS1382 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Milk and Dairy Products](#), and [RS1384 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Meat](#). For details about the “Eurasian Conformity” mark please see [RS1506 Eurasian Conformity Mark for Food Products](#).

#### **MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM April 21, 2015**

***Publication Date: April 22, 2015***

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 35.** *On the Procedure for Informing Participants in the Foreign Economic Activity of the Member-States of the Eurasian Economic Union about Preparation of Draft Decisions on the Introduction, Application, Extension, or Cancellation of the Unified Measures of Non-Tariff Regulation and Holding Consultations* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** According to the decision, the EEC shall notify interested parties of the planned unified non-tariff measures via its website and there will be a public comment period of at least 30 days. Comments should be submitted in Russian either through the EEC website or by e-mail. The EEC shall publish a summary of comments received during the public comment period within 25 business days from the deadline for the submission of comments specifying whether and why specific comments and proposals were accepted or declined. Interested parties may request consultations within 5 days following the publication of the relevant summary of comments.

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM**  
**May 5, 2015**

***Publication Date: May 6, 2015***

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 44.** *On the Establishment of Rate of Import Customs Duty of the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union in Respect of Certain Types of Fertilized Fish Eggs* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision reduces the import tariff on fertilized fish eggs other than sturgeon's (EAEU HS Code 0511 91 901 9) from the current 8.7 per cent to zero for the period between the May 17, 2015, through April 30, 2018.

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM**  
**May 12, 2015**

***Publication Date: May 13, 2015***

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 51.** *On Amending the Unified Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity of the Eurasian Economic Union in respect to Pine Nuts* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision adds an “additional note” to the EAEU HS group 08 clarifying that pine nuts classified under EAEU HS Code 0811 90 950 0 are deemed frozen when they are chilled to the temperature of below minus 35 degrees Celsius. The EEC also issued a separate recommendation urging the Member-States to enforce this clarification as of the day of entry into force of Decision No. 51.