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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

The Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), which is the supreme regulatory body of the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union (CU), met in Moscow on April 25, 2012. Summaries of relevant developments and decisions from this meeting as well as regular weekly meetings of the EEC working body - the EEC Collegium, that impact CU food and agriculture policy follow. The report also covers four draft CU documents related to its SPS policies that were published on the CU website for a 60-day public comment period, starting April 10, 2012. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and concerns with USDA.

General Information

The Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), which is the supreme regulatory body of the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union (CU), met in Moscow on April 25, 2012. Summaries of relevant developments and decisions from this meeting as well as regular weekly meetings of the EEC working body - the EEC Collegium, that impact CU food and agriculture policy follow. The report also covers four draft CU documents related to its SPS policies that were published on the CU website for a 60-day public comment period, starting April 10, 2012. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and concerns with USDA.

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.

Economic Integration in the Post-Soviet Space

At its meeting in Moscow on April 25, 2012, the EEC Council reviewed issues of regional integration of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. In particular, Uzbekistan’s accession to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) of October 18, 2011, currently signed by eight out of 11 CIS members, was discussed but final decision on the issue is only expected at the next meeting of the EEC Council in May 2012. For more information on the CIS FTA please see GAIN report [RS1221](#) [Commonwealth of Independent States FTA](#). As for Kyrgyzstan, Tatyana Valovaya, member of the EEC Collegium, was appointed new chairman of the working group on the Kyrgyz accession to the Customs Union. The action plan for the accession will be discussed at meeting of the EEC Council in June 2012.

Scheme of Economic Integration in the post-Soviet space

		Little integration → Most integration →			
1	Belarus	Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	2011 CIS Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Signatories	Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) Members	Customs Union (CU) / Single Economic Space (SES) Members
2	Kazakhstan				
3	Russia				EurAsEC observers
4	Kyrgyzstan				
5	Tajikistan				CIS FTA Candidate
6	Armenia				
7	Moldova				
8	Ukraine				
9	Uzbekistan				
10	Azerbaijan				
11	Turkmenistan				

3rd MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL
April 25, 2012

Publication Date: May 3, 2012

[EEC Council Decision No. 16.](#) *On Application by the Republic of Uzbekistan to Join the Free Trade Agreement of October 18, 2011* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The EEC Council took note of the information about negotiations with the Republic of Uzbekistan on its accession to the CIS Free Trade Agreement of October 18, 2011, currently signed by eight out of 11 CIS members.

[EEC Council Decision No. 17.](#) *On Draft Action Plan for Adjustment of Legal Framework of the Customs Union and the Single Economic Space to Functioning within a Multilateral Trade System* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The EEC Council aims to finalize and approve the draft Action Plan by May 20, 2012. The Action Plan, originally drafted by Russia's Ministry of Economic Development, contains 45 specific action items, e.g. drafting new documents or amending existing CU regulations, in many cases with reference to the respective paragraph of the Working Party report on Russia's accession to the WTO.

[EEC Council Decision No. 19.](#) *On Organization by the Parties of Talks about Excise Rates on Alcohol and Tobacco Products* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The EEC Council took note of the information from Russia about the need to harmonize approaches to the establishment of excise duty rates on alcohol and tobacco products and requested a report from the EEC Minister of Economy and Financial Policy on the progress of the CU negotiations on the issue at the next EEC Council meeting on May 14, 2012.

Publication Date: May 4, 2012

[EEC Council Decision No. 22.](#) *Statement* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The EEC Council expressed its concern about expanding sanctions against Belarus, which threaten to damage companies of the CU countries, and called for cancellation of the sanctions.

Publication Date: May 5, 2012

[EEC Council Decision No. 23.](#) *On the Working Group on the Issue of Participation of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Customs Union of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Russian Federation* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The EEC Council appointed Tatyana Valovaya, member of the EEC Collegium, chairwoman of the working group on Kyrgyz accession to the Customs Union.

SPS MEASURES PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Publication Date: April 10, 2012

1. **Certificate of State Registration:** [Amendments to Unified Forms of Documents Confirming Safety of Products \(Goods\)](#) – original in [Russian](#)

The draft amendment to the regulation on issuance of certificates of state registration is minor and technical, and refers to mailed product samples.

2. **Sanitary Border Control:** [“On Amendments to the Regulations on Procedure of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance \(monitoring\) for persons and vehicles crossing the customs border of the Customs Union, the controlled goods moved through customs border of the Customs Union and in the customs territory of the Customs Union”](#) – original in [Russian](#)

The draft amendment adds a clause to items 17 and 30 of the Regulations regarding the liability of the shipper or another person authorized in respect of the shipment that samples of goods imported for the purpose of state registration will be only used to this purpose and not for sale on the territory of the Customs Union until certificate of state registration is received.

3. **Sanitary Product Requirements:** “On Amendments to the Uniform epidemiological and hygienic requirements for the goods subject to sanitary surveillance (monitoring)” (*the document is too large for Google Translate*) – original in [Russian](#)

In particular, the draft amends the following ag-related sections of the requirements:

In Section 1 "Safety and nutrition requirements for food products":

- Para. 7.4 "Oilseeds (...)" is supplemented with a separate, less restrictive than before MRL for cadmium for sunflower seeds that are for direct consumption as food.

- The section is being supplemented by a new para. 19 "Timeframe for introduction of main products and supplemental feeding of commercial manufacture into infant diet," which specifies minimum baby age to start consumption of different types of food with detailed specification of all items.

- Appendix No. 5 regarding daily intakes of food and biologically active substances for adults as part of specialized food products and biologically active additives to food the intake levels for Astaxanthin in salmon, crabs, and prawns are increased from 1mg (adequate level) and 3mg (max. level) to 2mg and 6mg, respectively.

In Section 9 "Requirements for packaged potable water":

- a minor stylistic amendment in sub-para. 4.5 regarding the content of fluorid-ion is introduced.

In Section 15 "Requirements for pesticides and agrochemicals":

- The amendments concern Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides and chemicals in external entities, including agricultural products. For details about the proposed new edition of the MRLs for agricultural products please see GAIN report [RS1227 CU Draft on New MRLs for Pesticides in Agricultural Products](#).

4. **Review of SPS Measures for Compliance with International Standards:** [“On Approval of the Regulation on the Unified Procedure of Expert Review of Legal Acts of the Customs Union and the Single Economic Space in the Area of Application of Sanitary, Veterinary, and Phytosanitary Measures”](#) – original in [Russian](#)

The draft Regulation will replace the current one that was approved by Customs Union Commission decision No. 801 of September 23, 2011. The change reflects the development of the Single Economic Space and Eurasian Economic Commission.

5th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM April 5, 2012

Publication Date: April 16, 2012

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 16.](#) *On Amendments to the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union “On Safety of Packaging” (TR TS 005/2011)* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The EEC Collegium approved a draft decision of the EEC Council “On Amendments to the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union “On Safety of Packaging” (TR TS 005/2011)”. The amendment removes the ban on re-use of glass packaging for alcohol products.

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 17.](#) *On Amending the Unified List of Products Subject to Mandatory Assessment (Confirmation) of Conformity in the Customs Union with Issuance of Unified Documents* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The EEC Collegium introduced a technical amendment in the notes to the Unified List of Products Subject to Mandatory Assessment (Confirmation) of Conformity in the Customs Union with Issuance of Unified Documents approved by the CU Commission decision No. 620 of April 7, 2011.

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 18.](#) *On Changes in the Sub-Committees Composition of the Consultative Committee on Trade* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The EEC Collegium expanded the sub-committee on customs-and-tariff, non-tariff regulation and sub-committee on trade policy by including Russian officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Economic Development.

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 21.](#) *On Draft Technical Regulations of the Customs Union “On Safety of Certain Types of Specialized Food Products, Including Dietary Therapeutic and Dietary Prophylactic Nutrition”* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The document: (1) approves a draft decision of the EEC Council “On Adoption of the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union “On Safety of Certain Types of Specialized Food Products, Including Dietary Therapeutic and Dietary Prophylactic Nutrition”; (2) approves a draft decision of the EEC Collegium “On Some Issues of Implementation of the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union “On Safety of Certain Types of Specialized Food Products, Including Dietary Therapeutic and Dietary Prophylactic Nutrition”. According to the draft decision of the EEC Council, the Technical Regulations shall come into force as of July 1, 2013, while the draft decision of the EEC Collegium (to be adopted after the EEC Council adopts the Technical Regulations) contains a number of transitional provisions in effect through February 15, 2015.

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 22.](#) *On Action Plans for Implementation of Technical Regulations of the Customs Union* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision approves action plans for the implementation of 17 current Technical Regulations of the Customs Union, including the following agriculture-related ones: On Safety of Grain, On Food Products Labeling, On Juice Products from Fruits and Vegetables, and On Oil and Fat Products. These Action Plans list pending measures, such as amendments to existing CU requirements (e.g. sanitary requirements approved by Decision 299) and bringing of national legal acts in compliance with the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union, and deadlines for each measure.

**6th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
April 12, 2012**

Publication Date: April 20, 2012

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 23.](#) *On Draft Calendar Plan of Development of Documents for Implementation of Agreements Forming the Single Economic Space* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The draft Plan contains action items with deadlines and responsible EEC Collegium officers and departments for each of the 17 Agreements forming the framework of the Single Economic Space. In particular, there are 12 action items regarding the Agreement on the Unified Principles and Rules of Competition, with deadlines for EEC Collegium approval ranging from June 2012 to July 2013. The first of the two action items for the Agreement on the Unified Rules of State Support of Agriculture has already been implemented by CU Commission decision No. 813 of November 18, 2011 (re. format of notification on the state support provided to agriculture during a reporting year); the deadline for the second action item – the list of respective legal acts of the Parties to be implemented, amended, or cancelled – is 2012. Finally, all of the four action items regarding the Agreement on the Unified Principles and Rules of Technical Regulation in the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Russian Federation, have already

been implemented by CU Commission decisions No. 526 of January 1, 2011; No. 621 of April 7, 2011; No. 319 of June 18, 2010; and No. 629 of April 4, 2011.

Publication Date: April 28, 2012

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 28.](#) *On Assigning Responsibility for Monitoring Implementation of Agreements Forming the Legal Framework of the Customs Union and the Single Economic Space to Members of the Collegium and Departments of the Eurasian Economic Commission - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision assigns responsibility for monitoring implementation of some 85 existing Customs Union and Single Economic Space agreements to members of the Collegium and departments of the Eurasian Economic Commission.

**7th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
April 19, 2012**

Publication Date: April 24, 2012

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 27.](#) *On Amendments to the Customs Union Commission's Decision No. 769 of August 16, 2011 "On Adoption of the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union "On Safety of Packaging"" - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision clarifies some transitional provisions regarding entry into force of the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union "On Safety of Packaging".

Publication Date: April 28, 2012

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 32.](#) *On Amendments to Section II of the Unified List of Goods Subject to Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (Control) at the Customs Border and on the Customs Territory of the Customs Union - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The EEC Collegium approved a draft decision of the EEC Council "On Amendments to Section II of the Unified List of Goods Subject to Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (Control) at the Customs Border and on the Customs Territory of the Customs Union". In particular, the list of goods that are subject to state registration is revised. For more details please see GAIN report [RS1152 Customs Union Publishes SPS Measures for Public Comment](#).

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 33.](#) *On Amendments to the Regulations on Procedure of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (control) over persons and vehicles crossing the customs border of the Customs Union, and the controlled goods moved through the customs border of the Customs Union and in the customs territory of the Customs Union - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The EEC Collegium approved a draft decision of the EEC Council on amendments to the above regulation. The amendments correct a technical error in paragraph 14 and specify

the necessary actions in case of temporary sanitary measures by one of the Parties in paragraphs 22 and 40.

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 34.](#) *On Amendments to Chapter II of the Uniform Sanitary-Epidemiological and Hygienic Requirements for Goods Subject to Sanitary-Epidemiological Surveillance (Control)* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The EEC Collegium approved a draft decision of the EEC Council on amendments to the above requirements. The draft of these amendments was first published on the CU website in late October 2011 for a 60-day public comment period and originally contained amendments to permissible levels for antibiotics, including tetracycline (please see GAIN report [RS1152 Customs Union Publishes SPS Measures for Public Comment](#) of November 23, 2011). However, the current version of the draft approved by the EEC Collegium no longer contains those amendments and only affects a number of provisions on biologically active additives, cigarettes and tobacco raw materials, food additives and flavorings, and processing aids.

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 35.](#) *On Approval of Regulation on Unification of Test Methods for Assessment of Conformity with the Uniform Sanitary-Epidemiological and Hygienic Requirements for the Goods Subject to Sanitary-Epidemiological Control (Supervision)* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The EEC Collegium approved a draft decision of the EEC Council on approval of the above regulation. The draft of the regulation was first published on the CU website in early December 2011 for a 60-day public comment period. For more details on the draft please see GAIN report [RS1160 Customs Union Publishes SPS Measures for Public Comment](#) of December 15, 2011.

8th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM April 26, 2012

Publication Date: April 20, 2012

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 37.](#) *On Draft Calendar Plan of Development of Documents for Implementation of Agreements Forming the Single Economic Space* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision refines the Plan. For details about the Plan see EEC Collegium Decision No. 23 above.