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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 May 9 and June 19, 2015 that impact EAEU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are an SPS draft updating the form and regulations on the EAEU certificate of state registration, EAEU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement, EEC Council Decision No. 15 temporarily zeroing import tariff on some trout and salmon items, and EEC Collegium recommendation No. 10 on the harmonization of national programs and rules for the control of salmonellosis. 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 May 9 and June 19, 2015 that impact EAEU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are an SPS draft updating the form and regulations on the EAEU certificate of state registration, EAEU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement, EEC Council Decision No. 15 temporarily zeroing import tariff on some trout and salmon items, and EEC Collegium recommendation No. 10 on the harmonization of national programs and rules for the control of salmonellosis.

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: June 4, 2015***

1. **EAEU Certificate of State Registration:** Draft decision “On Amendments to the Customs Union Commission’s Decision No. 299 of May 28, 2010” – original in [Russian](#).

**Summary:** On June 4, 2015, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), the EAEU’s regulatory body, published draft amendments to the key Decision of the Customs Union Commission on sanitary measures (No. 299 of May 28, 2010), which brought the form and regulations on the certificate of state registration up to date. The EEC’s comment period for this draft started on June 5, 2015 and will close on August 4, 2015. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and/or concerns with USDA at [AgMoscow@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgMoscow@fas.usda.gov). For potential inclusion in the U.S. official position, please send comments by July 24, 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: June 2, 2015***

Free Trade Agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and its Member States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam - original in [English](#)

**Summary:** The Free Trade Agreement (FTA,) signed between the EAEU (including the Kyrgyz Republic) and Vietnam on May 29, 2015, is pending ratification and will enter into force 60 days after completion of the internal legal procedures by the EAEU Member States and Vietnam. Should it be necessary, there is a provision for delayed entry into force of the FTA for the Kyrgyz Republic, whose formal EAEU accession is yet to be ratified.

The FTA has the following structure:

- Chapter 1. General Provisions
- Chapter 2. Trade in Goods
- Chapter 3. Trade Remedies
- Chapter 4. Rules of Origin
- Chapter 5. Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation,
- Chapter 6. Technical Barriers to Trade,
- Chapter 7. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- Chapter 8. Trade in Services, Investment and Movement of Natural Persons
- Chapter 8bis. State Owned, State Controlled Enterprises and Enterprises with Special or Exclusive Privileges (*applicable only between the Russian Federation and Viet Nam*)
- Chapter 9. Intellectual Property
- Chapter 10. Government Procurement
- Chapter 11. Competition
- Chapter 12. Sustainable Development
- Chapter 13. Electronic Technologies in Trade
- Chapter 14. Dispute Settlement
- Chapter 15. Final Provisions
  
- Annex 1. Schedules of Tariff Commitments (*EAEU Schedule of Tariff Commitments through 2025 & Viet Nam Schedule of Tariff Commitments through 2027*)
- Annex 2. Trigger Level for Trigger Safeguard Measures (*through 2029*)
- Annex 3. Product Specific Rules (*for the purposes of Chapter 4 Rules of Origin*)
- Annex 4. The List of Offshore Countries or Territories
- Annex 5. Certificate of Origin

According to the schedules of tariff commitments, both the EAEU and Vietnam will have a number of items completely excluded from any tariff commitments.

The EAEU exclusions from tariff commitments include:

live swine (CU HS heading 0103), beef and pork (0201, 0202, 0203), the majority of beef, pork and other livestock byproducts from 0206, poultry (0207), pig fat (0209), a number of fish items (from 0302, 0303, 0304, and 0305), cucumbers and gherkins (0711 40, 2001 10), some coffee and tea (0901 21 000, 0902 10 000, 0902 30 000,) many rice items (from 1006, with two items being subject to TRQs), a number of other rice processing products (from 1103 and 1104), manioc starch (1108 14), palm oil and fractions thereof (1511), a number of oils (from 1513), various oils and fats (1514, 1516, 1517), a couple of sausages and meat products items (from 1601, 1602), sugar and confectionery items (1701, from 1702, 1703, 1704), some other prepared foods (from 1806, from 1905, 2002, 2004, from 2005, from 2101, from 2106), some alcohol (2207, 2208), vinegar 2209 00, flours, meals and pellets (2301 10), some pet food (2309 10), some tobacco items (2402, 2403), and essential oils (from 3301).

Vietnam's exclusions from tariff commitments include:

pure-bred breeding swine (0103 10 00), a number of poultry items (from 0207), bacon and boneless hams (0210 19 30), some seafood (0308 29 30), TRQs for some fresh poultry eggs (from 0407), bovine semen (0511 10 00), some plants (from 0601 and 0602), poppy seeds (1207 91 00), some other seeds (from 1209), poppy straw (1211 40 00), a couple of vegetable saps and extracts (from 1302), some sausages (1601 00 90), some prepared foods (from 1602, 1604, 1605), many sugar items (from 1701, 1702), some vegetables (from 2002, 2005), some juices (from 2009), a number of wines and other beverages (from 2204, 2205, 2206), many spirits (from 2208), many tobacco items (from 2401, 2402, 2403), TRQs for many tobacco items (from 2401), salt (from 2501), a number of hides and skins items (from 4102, 4103), carbonized wool (5101 30 00), and a couple of true hemp items (from 5302).

Press reports indicated that Vietnam's tariff reduction commitments under the FTA will not affect about 12 percent of the tariff lines which were not of particular interest to EAEU exporters. The EAEU, in its turn, will also lift import duties on 88 percent of the tariff lines in the goods nomenclature: those on 59 percent will be lifted as soon as the agreement takes effect, while the remaining 29 percent will be lifted over transitional periods of five to ten years.

According to the EEC, the EAEU will keep customs duties on the most sensitive groups of products, such as meat, milk, tea, coffee, sugar, instant drinks, pipes, aircraft, cars and so on, while Vietnam will keep import duties on certain groups of ready meat products, pastry and sweets, salt, industrial waste, precious metal products, special-purpose vehicles and so on, which are largely of no export interest to manufacturers in the EAEU countries.

EEC officials were quoted in the press as estimating the FTA could increase overall trade between the EAEU and Vietnam from the current \$4 billion to \$10 billion by 2020.

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL**  
**May 29, 2015**

***Publication Date: June 2, 2015***

**EAEU InterGovt Council Order No. 14.** *On the Measures Aimed at Harmonization of Excise Rates for Alcohol and Tobacco Products in the Eurasian Economic Union Member-States* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The order instructs the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) to continue its work on the draft agreements on the principles of tax policy in the sphere of excises for alcohol and tobacco products in the EAEU Member-States and to ensure that these agreements enter into force simultaneously with the Agreement on the Regulation of the Alcohol Market in the Eurasian Economic Union. The EEC should also take into account the peculiarities of the economic development of the Republic of Armenia and the Kyrgyz Republic and aim to finalize the process of drafting the stated agreements by December 1, 2015.

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL**  
**April 23, 2015**

***Publication Date: May 18, 2015***

**EEC Council Decision No. 15.** *On the Establishment of Rates of Import Customs Duties of the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union in Respect of Certain Types of Fish* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision reduces the import tariff on some trout and salmon items (EAEU HS codes 0301 91 900 0 and 0301 99 110 0) from 10 per cent to zero for the period between May 28, 2015, and April 30, 2018.

***Publication Date: June 16, 2015***

**EEC Council Order No. 12.** *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 decision approves a delegation list 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, will be tasked with developing directives for the upcoming tariff talks with the WTO.

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL**  
**May 28, 2015**

*Publication Date: June 2, 2015*

**EEC Council Decision No. 15.** *On Amending Decision of the Eurasian Economic Commission Council No. 48 of June 20, 2012 - original in [Russian](#)*

**Summary:** The decision amends the Regulation about the Procedure of Development, Adoption, Amending, and Cancellation of a CU Technical Regulation. In particular, the amendment specifies that a new technical regulation or amendments to technical regulations can enter into force no earlier than 180 calendar days from the date of their adoption.

**MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM**  
**May 19, 2015**

*Publication Date: May 20, 2015*

**EEC Collegium Recommendation No. 10.** *On the Harmonization of the National Programs and Veterinary and Sanitary Rules for Prevention and Control of Salmonellosis in Birds of the Eurasian Economic Union Member-States with International Acts - original in [Russian](#)*

**Summary:** The EEC recommends that Armenia and Russia adopt the relevant national programs for salmonellosis control, and that all EAEU Member-States harmonize their relevant programs with certain provisions of the OIE Terrestrial Code and some EU Directives in accordance with the schedule included therein.