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Report Highlights:

This report [1] contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Armenia-Belarus-Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan Russia Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) meetings, published between June 18 and August 31, 2015 that impact EAEU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are draft Unified EAEU Phytosanitary requirements, a number of decisions on import tariff changes for numerous agricultural products, which appear consistent with Russia's WTO commitments, the EEC Collegium decision No. 68, approving a list of transitional import tariff rates for Kyrgyzstan until 2020, and the EEC Collegium decision No. 99 establishing CU tariff-rate quotas for 2016. As noted herein, Russia notified several of the SPS measures covered in this report to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

^[1] 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-Kyrgyzstan-Russia [Eurasian Economic Union](#) (EAEU) meetings, published between June 18 and August 31, 2015 that impact EAEU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are draft Unified EAEU Phytosanitary requirements, a number of decisions on import tariff changes for numerous agricultural products, which appear consistent with Russia's WTO commitments, the EEC Collegium decision No. 68, approving a list of transitional import tariff rates for Kyrgyzstan until 2020, and the EEC Collegium decision No. 99 establishing CU tariff-rate quotas for 2016.

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 noted herein, Russia notified several of the SPS measures covered in this report to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Kyrgyzstan Joined Eurasian Economic Union

On August 12, 2015, Kyrgyzstan officially became the fifth member of the Eurasian Economic Union. However, while most of the controls, including customs, sanitary-epidemiological and phytosanitary, were abolished at the Kazakh-Kyrgyz border, veterinary control remains intact for now at the request of Kazakhstan. For more details on the terms of the Kyrgyz accession to the Eurasian Economic Union please see GAIN report [KG1503 Kyrgyzstan Joins Eurasian Economic Union](#).

SPS MEASURES PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Publication Date: July 21, 2015

1. **Procedure of Regionalization:** Draft decision "On Approval of Procedure on Cooperation between the Member-States of the Eurasian Economic Union in the Prevention, Containment and Eradication of Foci of Highly Dangerous, Quarantine and Zoonotic Animal Diseases and Procedure on Regionalization and Compartmentalization" – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1553 Draft EAEU Procedure on Regionalization Notified to WTO](#).

Summary: On July 30, 2015, Russia notified the WTO of this draft document via [G/SPS/N/RUS/97](#). The draft establishes the respective procedures and ways of cooperation between the EAEU member-states aimed at prevention, containment and eradication of animal diseases. The public comment period for the draft closed on September 19, 2015.

Publication Date: July 30, 2015

3. **Veterinary Requirements:** Draft decision "On Amending Unified Veterinary (Veterinary and Sanitary) Requirements for Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance)" – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1550 Draft EAEU Requirements for Imported Swine Embryos Notified to WTO](#).

Summary: On August 6, 2015, Russia notified the WTO of this draft document via [G/SPS/N/RUS/100](#). According to the notification, the draft document introduces veterinary and sanitary requirements for swine embryos imported into the Eurasian Economic Union. Additionally, the draft introduces a couple of minor amendments to the current EAEU veterinary requirements regarding the import of animals for personal use and import of feeds and feed additives. The public comment period for the draft closed on September 29, 2015.

Publication Date: August 3, 2015

4. **Forms of Veterinary Certificates:** Draft decision “On Amending Decision of the Customs Union Commission No. 607 of April 7, 2011” – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1550 Draft EAEU Requirements for Imported Swine Embryos Notified to WTO](#).

Summary: On August 6, 2015, Russia notified the WTO of this draft document via [G/SPS/N/RUS/101](#). According to the notification, the draft document introduces a form of a veterinary certificate for swine embryos imported into the Eurasian Economic Union. The public comment period for the draft closed on September 29, 2015.

Publication Date: August 26, 2015

5. **Phytosanitary Requirements:** Draft decision “On Approval of the Unified Quarantine Phytosanitary Requirements of the Eurasian Economic Union – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1566 Draft EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements Notified to WTO](#).

Summary: On September 2, 2015, Russia notified the WTO of this draft document via [G/SPS/N/RUS/102](#). The draft establishes the respective procedures and ways of cooperation between the EAEU member-states aimed at protection of plants and the territory of the Union from penetration and spread of quarantine objects on this territory. The public comment period for the draft will close on October 30, 2015. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and/or concerns with USDA’s enquiry point (us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov). For potential inclusion in the U.S. official position, please send your comments by October 20, 2015.

Publication Date: August 28, 2015

6. **Regulation on Joint Inspections:** Draft decision “On Amending the Regulation on Common System of Joint Inspections of Objects and Sampling of Goods (Products), Subject to Veterinary Control (Supervision)” – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1571 Draft EAEU SPS Measure on Joint Inspections Notified to WTO](#).

Summary: On September 2, 2015, Russia notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of this draft document via [G/SPS/N/RUS/103](#). According to the notification, the draft amendments would only affect the EAEU member-states. In particular, the draft specifies the authorized body responsible for decisions on changing the current status of establishments in the Register of the Customs Union (CU) and the procedure for changing the status of establishments in the Register. Additionally, according to the draft amendments, the inspections guidelines specified in Annex No. 3 to the Regulation will be used only for inspections of establishments of third countries.

The 60-day public comment period for the draft will close on November 1, 2015. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and/or concerns with USDA's enquiry point (us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov). For potential inclusion in the U.S. official position, please send your comments by October 20, 2015.

Publication Date: August 31, 2015

7. **Testing for Veterinary Control:** Draft decision “Rules and Methodology of Laboratory Testing in the Process of Veterinary Control (Surveillance) at the Customs Border of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union” – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1572 Draft EAEU SPS Measure on Testing Notified to WTO](#).

Summary: On September 4, 2015, Russia notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of this draft document via [G/SPS/N/RUS/104](#). According to the notification, the draft document would only affect the EAEU member-states. In particular, the draft document introduces common requirements for sampling, samples storage and transportation, laboratory testing and application of testing results, samples utilization during the monitoring of regulated goods, epizootic monitoring sampling, and veterinary control (supervision). Additionally, the document covers reference laboratories (centers) and regulates information cooperation between authorized bodies responsible for veterinary control.

The 60-day public comment period for the draft will close on November 3, 2015. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and/or concerns with USDA's enquiry point (us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov). For potential inclusion in the U.S. official position, please send your comments by October 22, 2015.

INTERNATIONAL MEMORANDA

Publication Date: June 18, 2014

Memorandum on Cooperation between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Government of Mongolia - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The document was signed in Yerevan on April 11, 2013. 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 on issues within their competencies, including elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers in mutual trade, simplification of trade and customs procedures, improvements of mechanisms for the application of TBT and SPS measures in mutual trade, and agricultural cooperation with the goal to ensure food security and increase competitiveness of the Parties' agricultural entities. The cooperation will be carried out through a working group to be led by co-chairmen from the EEC and the Government of Mongolia that will meet at least once a year. The memorandum was written in Russian and Mongolian, with both being equally authentic.

Publication Date: June 24, 2014

Memorandum of Understanding between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Government of the Republic of Chile - original in [English](#)

Summary: The Memorandum was signed on June 19, 2015. 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 in various spheres including regional economic integration, technical regulations, SPS measures, and agriculture. The cooperation will be carried out in the framework of a joint commission that will meet at least once a year. The memorandum was written in Russian, English and Spanish, with all three texts being equally authentic.

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

Publication Date: July 15, 2015

EEC Council Decision No. 39. *On Amendments to the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union "Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products" (TR TS 024/2011)* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The document specifies some requirements for labeling of the transport packaging of oil and fat products. It also cancels a provision that allowed foreign entities to be applicants for the purposes of assessment of the products' compliance specifying that only entities registered on a CU member-state territory can be such applicants. As a draft, Russia notified the WTO of this document via [G/TBT/N/RUS/22](#) of May 16, 2013. For details, please see GAIN report [RS1327 Draft Amendments to CU Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products](#).

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL
July 15, 2015

Publication Date: July 21, 2015

EEC Council Decision No. 44. *On Amending the Unified Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union in Respect of 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 changed the EAEU import tariff in connection with Russia's WTO tariff commitments. According to this decision, the following agricultural items were affected by the tariff changes as of September 1, 2015: some live, chilled, or frozen fish (from EAEU HS groups 0301 – 0304), dairy items and birds' eggs (from 0402, 0405 – 0408), live plants (from 0602), fresh vegetables (from 0701, 0703-0704, 0706 – 0707), fresh apples and other fruit (from 0808 and 0810), rice (1006), flour, malt, starches (from 1105 and 1108), oils and margarine (from 1512, 1514, and 1517), sausage (from 1601), sugar, sugar confectionery, and chocolate (from 1701, 1704, and 1806), pastry (from 1905), preserved vegetables, fruit, nuts, and fruit juices (from 2005, 2007 – 2009), yeast (from 2102), alcohol (from 2208), and flax (from 5301). Additionally, the EAEU tariff on two mackerel items from HS 0303 and four more peanut items including peanut butter from HS 2008 will be reduced as of December 31, 2015.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
June 2, 2015

Publication Date: July 21, 2015

EEC Collegium Decision No. 85 *On Amending the Unified Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic 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 changed the EAEU import tariff in connection with Russia's WTO tariff commitments. In particular, the following agricultural items were affected by the EAEU import tariff changes as of September 1, 2015: certain edible offal of cattle, pigs, rabbits, meat of whales and seals, other meat and edible offal (from 0206 and 0208); fish liver, eggs and roes, edible fish by-products, crustaceans, mollusks and other aquatic invertebrates (from 0305-0308, 0511); whey and cheese (from 0404, 0406); cut flowers and flower buds, leaves, branches and other parts of plants (from 0603-0604); vegetables, including frozen, canned, dried (from EAEU HS Chapter 07); coffee and tea (from 0901-0902); grains, flour and starches (from 1103-1104, 1106, and 1108); seaweeds (from 1212); vegetable plaiting materials (from 1401 and 1404); animal or vegetable fats and oils (from EAEU HS Chapter 15); prepared, preserved meats, fish, and crustaceans (from 1601-1602 and 1605); some sugars and chewing gum (from 1702, 1704); some bakery goods (from 1904-1905); processed vegetables, fruits, and nuts (from 2001-2006); extracts, essences, concentrates, soups and broths, ice-cream, other miscellaneous edible

preparations (from 2101, 2103-2106); mineral waters, alcohol, vinegar (from 2202-2206 and 2208), vegetable residues and preparations for animal feeds (from 2309); tobacco items (from 2402-2403); dextrin and other starches (from 3505); fatty acids (from 3823); and raw fur skins (from 4301). Additionally, the EAEU tariff on some crustaceans from EAEU HS 0306 and 1605 will be reduced as of January 1, 2016.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
June 30, 2015

Publication Date: July 1, 2015

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 68](#) *On Approval of the List of Goods and Rates that shall be subject to a Transition Period during which the Kyrgyz Republic shall Apply the Rates of Import Customs Duties Differing from the Rates of the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approved the respective list of goods, for which Kyrgyzstan will be able to use customs duties that are different from the EAEU tariff rates until 2020. In particular, Kyrgyzstan will be able to apply customs duties that are different (lower) from the EAEU tariff rates for a handful of agricultural items (bovine and fish genetics, young plants, seed potatoes, kidney beans for sowing, corn seed hybrids, sauces, and preparations for animal feeds) until 2020. For details please see GAIN report [KG1503 Kyrgyzstan Joins Eurasian Economic Union](#).

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
July 8, 2015

Publication Date: July 9, 2015

[EEC Collegium Decision No. 72](#) *On Amending the Unified Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic 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 decreased the import tariff for preserved fish item (EAEU HS 1604 13 900 0) from 13 percent to 12 percent and replaced the combined tariff of 1.4 Euro per liter for other food preparations item (HS 2106 90 200 0) with an ad valorem tariff of 10 percent as of September 1, 2015.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
July 14, 2015

Publication Date: July 15, 2015

EEC Collegium Decision No. 83 *On Amending the Unified Veterinary (Veterinary and Sanitary) Requirements for Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance)* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision specifies that as of July 1, 2015, veterinary and sanitary measures that are applicable as of Kazakhstan's accession to the WTO, shall apply to controlled goods imported into Kazakhstan for consumption on its territory.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
August 18, 2015

Publication Date: August 20, 2015

EEC Collegium Decision No. 99 *On Establishment of Tariff-Rate Quotas for Import of Certain Agricultural Goods into the Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union in 2016, as well as Volumes of Tariff-Rate Quotas for Import of these Goods in the Territories of the Eurasian Economic Union Member-States* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision establishes tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) and respective volumes for imports of meat, poultry and whey into the Eurasian Economic Union. Unchanged from 2015, Russia's TRQ volumes appear consistent with its WTO commitments. Belarus TRQ volumes also remained unchanged, while Kazakhstan will increase access for beef and poultry, and slash its TRQ for pork in 2016. The EEC decision does not establish any TRQs for new EAEU members Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. For additional details, please see GAIN report [RS1560 Eurasian Economic Commission Announces 2016 TRQs](#).

Publication Date: August 27, 2015

EEC Collegium Order No. 81 *On Amending Membership of the Consultative Committee on Technical Regulation, Application of Sanitary, Veterinary, and Phytosanitary Measures* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision approved a revised list of members of the Consultative Committee for Technical Regulations, Application of Sanitary, Veterinary, and Phytosanitary Measures. In particular, the list was expanded to include seven representatives of Armenia, while membership for Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia was also revised. Notable changes for Russia include replacement of Deputy Minister of Agriculture Andrey Volkov with Deputy Minister of Agriculture Sergey Levin, and exclusion of Dr. Evgeny Nepoklonov, Deputy Head of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance, from the list.