



Voluntary Report - Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: July 26, 2021

Report Number: RS2021-0025

Report Name: Eurasian Economic Union Ag Times No 1 of 2021

Country: Russian Federation

Post: Moscow

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

This report contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Armenia-Belarus-Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan-Russia Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) meetings, published between November 21, 2020, and July 22, 2021, that impact EAEU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are the EEC Council decision No. 102 delaying entry into force of the EAEU Technical Regulation on Alcohol until January 1, 2022; the EEC Council decision No. 17 radically reducing the number of developing countries that enjoy the 25 percent import tariff discount for exports of some agricultural products to the EAEU under its system of tariff preferences, and a number of EAEU SPS and TBT measures that were notified to the WTO by EAEU members.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

General Information:

This report contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Armenia-Belarus-Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan-Russia Eurasian Economic Union¹ (EAEU) meetings, published between November 21, 2020, and July 22, 2021, that impact EAEU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are the EEC Council decision No. 102 delaying entry into force of the EAEU Technical Regulation on Alcohol until January 1, 2022; the EEC Council decision No. 17 radically reducing the number of developing countries that enjoy the 25 percent import tariff discount for exports of some agricultural products to the EAEU under its system of tariff preferences, and a number of EAEU SPS and TBT measures that were notified to the WTO by EAEU members.

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 and other EAEU Member States notified some of the SPS/TBT measures covered in this report to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

SPS/TBT MEASURES PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Publication Date: January 19, 2021

 Phytosanitary Measures: Draft decisions of the EEC Council "On Amending Section I of the List of Regulated Products (Regulated Cargo, Regulated Materials, Regulated Goods) that are Subject to Quarantine Phytosanitary Control (Supervision) at the Customs Border of the Eurasian Economic Union and in the Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union" and "On Amending Unified Phytosanitary Quarantine Requirements for Regulated Products and Regulated Objects at the Customs Border and in the Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union" – originals in Russian here and here, respectively. For English, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0004 Draft Amendments to EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements Notified to WTO</u>.

Summary: Russia, the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of the drafts via <u>G/SPS/N/RUS/204</u> and <u>G/SPS/N/RUS/205</u>, and <u>G/SPS/N/KGZ/18</u> and <u>G/SPS/N/KGZ/17</u>, and <u>G/SPS/N/KAZ/86</u> and <u>G/SPS/N/KAZ/85</u>, respectively. The draft measures add fungal spawn to the EAEU list of regulated products and introduce numerous amendments to the EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements based on the first four years of their application and proposals from the EAEU trade partners. For details, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0004 Draft Amendments to EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements Notified to WTO</u>. The latest of the public comment periods for the drafts closed on May 31, 2021. As of the date of this report, the measures have not yet been adopted.

¹ For details, please see GAIN report <u>RS1611 Eurasian Economic Union One Year On</u>.

Publication Date: February 5, 2021

 Technical Regulation: On Amending Technical Regulation of the Customs Union "On Food Safety" (TR TS 021/2011) – original in Russian <u>here</u>. For English, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0006 Draft Amendments to EAEU Food Safety Regulations Notified to WTO</u>.

Summary: Russia and the Kyrgyz Republic notified the WTO of the draft via <u>G/TBT/N/RUS/109</u> of February 8, 2021 / <u>G/SPS/N/RUS/210</u> of February 16, and <u>G/SPS/N/KGZ/19</u> of February 26, 2021, respectively. The proposed measure will supplement the EAEU Technical Regulation on food safety (TR TS 021/2011) with provisions on maximum residue limits (MRLs) for veterinary drugs which were originally only included in the <u>EAEU TR</u> on Safety of Meat and Meat Products. For details, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0006 Draft</u> <u>Amendments to EAEU Food Safety Regulations Notified to WTO</u>. The public comment period for the draft closed on April 6, 2021. As of the date of this report, the measure has not yet been adopted.

Publication Date: March 18, 2021

3. Veterinary Measures: Draft decisions of the EEC Collegium "On Amending Decision of the Customs Union Commission No. 607 of April 7, 2011" and "On Amending Annex No. 1 to the Unified Veterinary (Veterinary and Sanitary) Requirements for Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Supervision)," and draft decision of the EEC Council "On Amending the Unified List of Goods subject to Veterinary Control (Supervision)" – originals in Russian are here, here, and here (respectively). For English, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0009 Draft Amendments to EAEU Veterinary Regulations Notified to WTO</u>.

Summary: Russia and the Kyrgyz Republic notified the WTO of the draft <u>G/SPS/N/RUS/217</u> and <u>G/SPS/N/RUS/218</u>, and <u>G/SPS/N/KGZ/21</u> and <u>G/SPS/N/KGZ/20</u>, respectively. The proposed measures amend the EAEU veterinary regulations regarding some dairy products and feed additives. For details, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0009 Draft Amendments to EAEU</u> <u>Veterinary Regulations Notified to WTO</u>. The public comment period for the drafts closed on May 21, 2021. As of the date of this report, the measures have not yet been adopted.

Publication Date: March 23, 2021

4. Phytosanitary Measures: Draft decisions of the EEC Council "On Amending Table 8 of the Unified Phytosanitary Quarantine Requirements for Regulated Products and Regulated Objects at the Customs Border and in the Customs Territory of the Eurasian Economic Union" and "On Amending Decision of the Customs Union Commission No. 318 of June 18, 2010" – originals in Russian here and here, respectively. For English, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0013 Draft Amendments to EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements Notified to WTO</u>.

Summary: Armenia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Russia notified the WTO of the drafts via <u>G/SPS/N/ARM/32</u> / <u>G/SPS/N/KAZ/90</u> / <u>G/SPS/N/KGZ/22</u> / <u>G/SPS/N/RUS/219</u> and <u>G/SPS/N/ARM/33</u> / <u>G/SPS/N/KAZ/91</u> / <u>G/SPS/N/KGZ/23</u> / <u>G/SPS/N/RUS/220</u>, respectively. The draft measures add phytosanitary requirements for fungal spawn and introduce changes to

the EAEU phytosanitary regulations related to the use of electronic documents. For details, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0013 Draft Amendments to EAEU Phytosanitary Requirements</u> <u>Notified to WTO</u>. The latest of the public comment periods for the drafts will close on September 3, 2021.

Publication Date: March 31, 2021

 Technical Regulation: Amendments No. 4 to the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union "On Safety of Packaging" (TR TS 005/2011) – original in Russian here. For English, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0015 Draft Amendments to EAEU Regulation on Packaging Notified to</u> <u>WTO</u>.

Summary: Russia notified the WTO of the draft via <u>G/TBT/N/RUS/105</u> of August 24, 2020. The draft measure draft measure would harmonize the Technical Regulation with the requirements of the EU directives against the use of single-use plastic products. For details, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0015 Draft Amendments to EAEU Regulation on Packaging</u> <u>Notified to WTO</u>. The public comment period for the draft closed on June 23, 2021. As of the date of this report, the measure has not yet been adopted.

Publication Date: April 8, 2021

 Technical Regulation: Draft Amendments No. 4 to the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union "On Food Products Labeling" (TR TS 022/2011) – original in Russian <u>here</u>. For English, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0016 Draft Amendments to EAEU Regulation on Food Labeling</u> <u>Notified to WTO</u>.

Summary: Russia notified the WTO of the draft via <u>G/TBT/N/RUS/113</u> of April 6, 2021. On April 22, 2021, Russia notified the same document again via <u>G/TBT/N/RUS/116</u>, apparently in an effort to clarify that the measure refers to food products labeling. The draft measure aims to update the TR based on the results of its application, as well as harmonize it with some EU and Codex documents on food labeling. For details, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0016 Draft</u> <u>Amendments to EAEU Regulation on Food Labeling Notified to WTO</u>. The public comment period for the draft closed on June 24, 2021. As of the date of this report, the measure has not yet been adopted.

Publication Date: April 14, 2021

 Technical Regulation: Draft Amendments No. 1 to the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union "On Safety of Meat and Meat Products" (TR TS 034/2013) – original in Russian here. For English, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0018 Draft Amendments to EAEU Regulation on Safety</u> <u>of Meat Notified to WTO</u>.

Summary: Russia notified the WTO of the draft via <u>G/TBT/N/RUS/114</u> of April 16, 2021. The draft measure will somewhat relax the TR requirements for nutrition labeling of meat products based on the relevant international experience and regulations, including those of the United States. For details, please see GAIN report <u>RS2021-0018 Draft Amendments to EAEU Regulation</u>

on Safety of Meat Notified to WTO. The public comment period for the draft closed on July 12, 2021. As of the date of this report, the measure has not yet been adopted.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Publication Date: May 13, 2021

Memorandum of Cooperation between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan - original in <u>Russian</u> and <u>English</u>.

Summary: The Memorandum was signed in Kazan on April 30, 2021. According to the Memorandum, it is not an international agreement and does not create financial or other obligations for the Parties. The Memorandum is a declaration by the Parties of their intent to develop cooperation between the Parties in order increase bilateral trade and investment. The areas of cooperation under the Memorandum, inter alia, include regional economic integration, trade policy, customs regulation, technical regulation, sanitary, veterinary and phytosanitary measures, and agro-industrial complex.

MEETING OF THE SUPREME EURASIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL AT THE HEADS OF STATE LEVEL December 11, 2020

Publication Date: December 12, 2020

EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 13 On Granting the Status of Observer in the Eurasian Economic Union to the Republic of Cuba - original in Russian.

Summary: The document granted the status of an EAEU observer to the Republic of Cuba. According to the EAEU Treaty of May 29, 2014, the EAEU observer status means an opportunity to attend EAEU meetings upon invitation and receive documents that are not confidential. Cuba is a second country to become an EAEU observer after Moldova, which received the status in mid-2018.

EEC Supreme Council Decision No. 14 On Granting the Status of Observer in the Eurasian Economic Union to the Republic of Uzbekistan - original in Russian.

Summary: The document granted the status of an EAEU observer to the Republic of Uzbekistan, a third country that received the stated status.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL October 30, 2020

Publication Date: November 23, 2020

EEC Council Decision No. 102 On Amending Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Union No.98 of December 5, 2018 - original in Russian

Summary: The decision delayed entry into force of the EAEU Technical Regulation (TR) "On Safety of Alcohol Products" (TR EAEU 047/2018) for a year, from January 1, 2021, to January 1, 2022. The goal of the Agreement is to strengthen control over circulation of goods in the EAEU in order to fight counterfeiting and illegal trade. EAEU members identify the launch date for this new digital labeling dairy products themselves, while the EAEU decision outlaws offering for sale new dairy products without the new digital label as of June 1, September 1 and December 1, 2021, depending on the type of product.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL December 23, 2020

Publication Date: April 6, 2021

EEC Council Decision No. 129 On the Introduction of Labeling of Certain Types of Dairy Products with Means of Identification - original in <u>Russian</u>

Summary: The decision mandates phased-in digital labeling of dairy products with means of identification (data matrix codes or RFID marks) pursuant to the EAEU <u>Agreement</u> on Labeling of Goods with Means of Identification.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL March 5, 2021

Publication Date: April 12, 2021

EEC Council Decision No. 17 On Amending Decision of the Customs Union Commission No. 130 of November 27, 2009 - original in Russian

Summary: The decision overhauled the EAEU Generalized System of Tariff Preferences (EAEU GSP) by reducing the number of developing countries qualifying for the EAEU tariff preferences from 103 to 29, and reducing the number of least developed countries from 50 to 48. As a result, such countries as China (including Taiwan and Macao), Brazil, India, Turkey, Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Hongkong, Columbia, Ecuador, Argentina and many others, will be removed from the EAEU GSP list of developing countries and denied the 25 percent import tariff discount when exporting certain products, including meat, fish, fruit and vegetables, to the EAEU. As for the least developed countries, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea was altogether excluded from the EAEU GSP, while the Republic of Vanuatu was upgraded to the EAEU GSP list of developing countries and force as of October 12, 2021.

Publication Date: April 19, 2021

EEC Council Decision No. 27 On Amending Decision of the Customs Union Commission No. 318 of June 18, 2010 - original in Russian

Summary: The decision supplemented the EAEU phytosanitary regulations with provisions allowing designated officials of the authorized plant quarantine bodies of the EAEU Member States to recognize phytosanitary certificates as not confirming the necessary phytosanitary condition of imported regulated products. It also granted authority to the authorized body to return wood packaging materials if a special marking sign of an international standard confirming that the wood packaging materials have been treated by heating throughout the thickness of wood or fumigation is missing, or wood packaging materials do not comply with the Unified EAEU Quarantine Phytosanitary Requirements. As a draft, the document was notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) by Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan via <u>G/SPS/N/KGZ/12</u> of March 18, 2020, and <u>G/SPS/N/KAZ/68</u> of April 23, 2020, respectively. For details on the notified draft please see GAIN report <u>KG2020-0004 Draft Amendments to Phytosanitary</u> <u>Regulations Notified to WTO</u>.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL April 23, 2021

Publication Date: April 30, 2021

EEC Council Decision No. 33 On Amending Some Decisions of the Customs Union Commission Regarding White Sugar and Raw Cane Sugar - original in Russian

Summary: The decision approved the duty-free import of sugar into the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) for the period from May 15 to September 30. As a result, Armenia will be allowed to import up to 22.4 thousand tons of sugar duty-free during the period, Kazakhstan – up to 134.4 thousand tons of sugar, the Kyrgyz Republic – up to 40 thousand tons, and Russia – up to 350 thousand tons of sugar.

Publication Date: May 19, 2021

EEC Council Decision No. 43 On the Introduction of Labeling of Alcohol Products with Means of Identification - original in Russian

Summary: According to the decision, the EAEU deemed it unnecessary to introduce an EAEUwide digital labeling of alcohol products with means of identification (data matrix codes or RFID marks) pursuant to the EAEU <u>Agreement</u> on Labeling of Goods with Means of Identification. However, EAEU members are allowed to individually introduce such labeling for the specified alcohol products from the HS groups 2204, 2205, 2006, and 2008, as they deem necessary.

Publication Date: June 8, 2021

EEC Council Decision No. 57 On the Schedule for Developing and Amending Technical Regulations of the Eurasian Economic Union - original in <u>Russian</u>

Summary: The decision approved a new schedule for developing and amending EAEU technical regulations. Outstanding ag-related technical regulations (TRs) include the draft EAEU TR on safety of feeds and feed additives that should be finalized by the IV quarter of 2022; the

EAEU TR on safety of poultry and products of its processing that should have been finalized by the I quarter of 2016 but is still pending; the EAEU TR on the safety of materials coming into contact with food products – to be finalized by the IV quarter of 2021, and a newly scheduled draft EAEU TR of safety of feeds non-productive² animals to be finalized by the IV quarter of 2023.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM December 1, 2020

Publication Date: December 7, 2020

EEC Collegium Recommendation No. 23 On the Development of Exports of Agricultural Products and Food, Produced in in the Eurasian Economic Union Member States - original in Russian

Summary: The recommendation identifies agricultural products according to their HS codes as well as markets with good potential for exports from EAEU member states and foods as well as agricultural products that are forecasted to be in demand in third countries. There is also a list of 32 global agricultural exhibitions and trade fairs for the EAEU member states to consider attending. The list includes events in such countries as Germany, Spain, United States (World Ag Expo in Tulare, California), UAE, France, Japan, Argentina, New Zealand, Canada, Iran, Morocco, Brazil, China, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Serbia, Poland, India, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Kenia, Romania, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM December 8, 2020

Publication Date: December 9, 2020

EEC Collegium Decision No. 163 On Amending Unified Veterinary (Veterinary and Sanitary) Requirements for Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance) - original in Russian

Summary: The decision removed many (but not all) exceptions from the uniform EAEU veterinary requirements previously enjoyed by Belarus regarding the use of veterinary measures for low-risk products. As a draft, the measure was notified by Russia, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan to the WTO via <u>G/SPS/N/RUS/175</u> of January 9, 2020, <u>G/SPS/N/KGZ/10</u> of February 3, 2020, and <u>G/SPS/N/KAZ/51</u> of February 17, 2020, respectively. For details on the notified draft please see GAIN report <u>RS2020-0006 Draft Amendments to Veterinary</u> <u>Requirements Notified to WTO</u>.

² According to Russian standards, non-productive animals are animals that are not used for the production of livestock products. These include pets, wild, exotic, decorative, laboratory, experimental, circus and any other legally obtained and kept animals that are not used for obtaining livestock products.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM December 15, 2020

Publication Date: December 18, 2020

EEC Collegium Decision No. 171 On the Program for Development (Amendments, Revision) of Interstate Standards, Voluntary Application of which Ensures Compliance with the Requirements of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union "Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids" (TR TS 029/2012), as well as Interstate Standards Containing the Rules and Methods of Examination (Testing) and Measurement, Including the Rules for Selection of Samples Required for Application and Meeting of the Requirements of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union "Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids" (TR TS 029/2012) and Carrying out of Assessment (Confirmation) of Products' Conformity - original in Russian

Summary: The decision approved a revised program of standards, replacing an earlier document that was adopted in 2014. As a result, the total number of standards to be developed for the related technical regulation by 2022-2023 increased from 49 standards to 130.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM June 1, 2021

Publication Date: June 2, 2021

EEC Collegium Decision No. 60 On Amending Decision of the Collegium of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 164 of December 5, 2017 - original in Russian

Summary: The decision amended the lists of EAEU standards to be used for compliance with the Technical Regulation of the Eurasian Economic Union "On Safety of Packaged Potable Water Including Natural Mineral Water" (TR EAEU 044/2017) that were originally adopted in 2017. The amendments come into force as of January 1, 2022. For details on the Technical Regulation of the Eurasian Economic Union "On Safety of Packaged Potable Water Including Natural Mineral Water" (TR EAEU 044/2017) please see GAIN report <u>RS1752 EAEU Technical Regulation on Packaged Water</u>.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM June 15, 2021

Publication Date: June 18, 2021

EEC Collegium Decision No. 66 On Amending Decision of the Collegium of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 30 of April 21, 2015 and on the Introduction of Temporary Quantitative Export Restrictions on Buckwheat - original in Russian

Summary: The decision established a unified EAEU quantitative export restriction on buckwheat (EAEU HS code 1008 10 000). The measure is introduced through August 31 of 2021 and establishes a zero quota for the export of buckwheat from the Republic of Armenia, the

Republic of Belarus, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation. Kazakhstan received an export quota for buckwheat of 4.2 thousand tons during the specified period. The EEC also asked the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation to cancel their national measures regarding exports of buckwheat and affecting mutual trade, within 10 calendar days from July 18, 2021, the date of entry into force of the decision.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM June 21, 2021

Publication Date: June 24, 2021

EEC Collegium Decision No. 67 On the Program for Development (Amendments, Revision) of Interstate Standards, Voluntary Application of which Ensures Compliance with the Requirements of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union "On Food Safety" (TR TS 021/2011), as well as Interstate Standards Containing the Rules and Methods of Examination (Testing) and Measurement, Including the Rules for Selection of Samples Required for Application and Meeting of the Requirements of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union "On Food Safety" (TR TS 021/2011) and Carrying out of Assessment (Confirmation) of Products' Conformity - original in <u>Russian</u>

Summary: The decision approved a revised program of standards, replacing an earlier document that was adopted in 2014. As a result, the total number of standards to be developed for the related technical regulation between 2021-2028 decreased from 150 standards to 103.

MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM June 29, 2021

Publication Date: July 2, 2021

EEC Collegium Decision No. 74 On Amending Annex No. 1 to the Unified Veterinary (Veterinary and Sanitary) Requirements for Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance) - original in <u>Russian</u>

Summary: The decision amended the Unified EAEU veterinary requirements to require an import permit for lysine imported into the EAEU for veterinary needs, including as feeds, of August 1, 2021. As a draft, the measure was notified by Kazakhstan and Russia to the WTO via <u>G/SPS/N/KAZ/26</u> of November 29, 2018, and <u>G/SPS/N/RUS/156</u> of December 4, 2018, respectively. However, the draft was substantially amended as originally, it required all three EAEU veterinary measures - a veterinary certificate, an import permit, and inclusion in the list of approved establishments - to be applicable to imported lysine. For details on the notified draft please see GAIN report <u>RS1832 Draft Amendments to Veterinary Requirements</u>.

EEC Collegium Decision No. 75 On the Program for Development (Amendments, Revision) of Interstate Standards, Voluntary Application of which Ensures Compliance with the Requirements of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union "Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products" (TR CU 024/2011), as well as Interstate Standards Containing the Rules and Methods of Examination (Testing) and Measurement, Including the Rules for Selection of Samples Required for Application and Meeting of the Requirements of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union "Technical Regulation on Fat and *Oil Products'' (TR CU 024/2011) and Carrying out of Assessment (Confirmation) of Products' Conformity - original in <u>Russian</u>*

Summary: The decision approved a revised program of standards, replacing an earlier document that was adopted in 2013. As a result, the total number of standards to be developed for the related technical regulation between 2021-2026 increased from 33 standards to 36.

Attachments:

No Attachments.