

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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**Report Highlights:**

The report contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union (CU) meetings in September - early October 2012 that impact CU food and agriculture policy. The major decisions include publication of a notice on the review of the current CU special safeguard measure against caramel and Decision 175, which is a notification of potential reductions for CU import tariffs for coalfish, capelin, cod, and haddock.

## **General Information**

The report contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union (CU) meetings in September - early October 2012 that impact CU food and agriculture policy. The major decisions include publication of a notice on the review of the current CU special safeguard measure against caramel and Decision 175, which is a notification of potential reductions for CU import tariffs for coalfish, capelin, cod, and haddock.

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.

## **Review of the EEC Special Safeguard Measure against Caramel**

On September 28, 2012, the EEC published a [Notice](#) on the review of the current EEC special safeguard measure against caramel, per a request by some Ukrainian producers of caramel.

The measure, originally introduced in Russia on July 8, 2011, in the form of a special safeguard tariff of \$294.1 per metric ton of caramel (*CU HS codes 1704 90 710 0, 1704 90 750 0, 1806 90 500 1, 1806 90 500 2*), was extended to the whole of the CU customs territory as of January 12, 2012, and to remain in effect through July 7, 2014.

Interested parties are invited to submit their comments and information, which they deem relevant for the EEC investigation, in writing (and in Russian) within 90 days of September 28, 2012 (i.e., December 27, 2012). Interested parties also have 30 days from September 28, 2012, to register with the EEC as a participant in the investigation in order to receive access to the relevant non-confidential materials and to take part in public hearings and negotiations. Any communication related to the EEC investigation should be forwarded to the EEC Department for Domestic Market Protection as follows: 3/5, Smolensky Boulevard, Moscow, 119121, Russian Federation; phones: +7 (495) 604 4038, ext. 1272 or 1292.

## **Draft Guidelines for Improvement of Customs Administration in 2012-2015**

On October 1, 2012, the EEC published [Draft Guidelines for Improvement of Customs Administration in 2012-2015](#) on its website and invited public comments, with a deadline for submissions as early as October 12, 2012. Comments should be sent directly to the EEC at [Romanova@tsouz.ru](mailto:Romanova@tsouz.ru) or [Bocharova@tsouz.ru](mailto:Bocharova@tsouz.ru). The key issues addressed in the draft Guidelines are further development of electronic declaration procedures and electronic interagency cooperation that should help reduce the time and the number of documents required for customs clearance.

**Publication Date: September 14, 2012**

**[EEC Council Decision No. 78.](#)** *On the Start of Negotiations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on a Free Trade Agreement* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The Decision approves a draft decision of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council at the level of heads of state on the issue and instructs the EEC Collegium to prepare and submit for review draft directives for negotiations in November 2012.

**24<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM  
September 18, 2012**

**Publication Date: September 19, 2012**

**[EEC Collegium Decision No. 161.](#)** *On Consultative Committee on Technical Regulation, Application of Sanitary, Veterinary, and Phytosanitary Measures* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision approved revised versions of the Regulations and membership of the Consultative Committee for Technical Regulations, Application of Sanitary, Veterinary, and Phytosanitary Measures. The text of the Regulations was refined but remained largely unchanged in terms of substance. As for the Committee's members, Russian membership changed considerably, growing from three representatives to nine, to include, in particular, Sergei Dankvert, Head of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance, Dr. Evgeny Nepoklonov, Deputy Head of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance, and Dr. Gennadiy Onishchenko, Russia's Chief Sanitary Official and Head of the Federal Service for Supervision in Consumer Rights Protection and Wellbeing.

**[EEC Collegium Decision No. 163.](#)** *On the Draft Decision of the Eurasian Economic Commission Council "On 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 Collegium approved a draft decision of the EEC Council, which would replace the EEC Council Decision No. 40 of June 15, 2012, "*On the Working Group (WG) 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.*" The draft contains a revised list of the WG members, including representatives from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, and the Eurasian Economic Commission, as well as an action plan which foresees production by December 1, 2013, of a roadmap for Kyrgyz accession to the CU.

**25<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM  
September 25, 2012**

**Publication Date: September 26, 2012**

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 166.** *About the Regulation on the Monitoring and Comparative and Legal Analysis of the Legislation of the CU and SES Member-States for Compliance with the Agreement on the Unified Rules of State Support for Agriculture of December 9, 2010 - original in [Russian](#)*

**Summary:** The decision approves the above-referenced regulation which specifies how the EEC should monitor, analyze, and report on the legislation of the CU Member States regulating their support for agriculture.

**26<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM  
October 2, 2012**

***Publication Date: October 3, 2012***

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 175.** *On Amending the Unified Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity of the Customs Union and the Unified Customs Tariff of the Customs Union in respect of Silicone Resins, Polymers of Ethylene, Certain Types of Organic Chemicals, Fish, Harvesters, and Vehicles - original in [Russian](#)*

**Summary:** The EEC Collegium approved a draft decision of the EEC Council to: (1) permanently cut the CU tariff on imported coalfish (*Pollachius virens*, CU HS 0302 53 000 0) and capelin (*Mallotus villosus*, CU HS 0302 89 900 1) from the current 10% to 0%, and (2) temporarily, from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013, cut the CU tariff on imported cod (CU HS 0302 51 100 0 and 0302 51 900 0) and haddock (CU HS 0302 52 000 0) from the current 10% to 5%.

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 182.** *On the Harmonization of Excise Policy on Alcohol and Tobacco Products in the Customs Union and Single Economic Space Member-States - original in [Russian](#)*

**Summary:** The EEC Collegium approved a respective draft decision of the EEC Council, but unfortunately the draft was not attached to the Decision as of the time of this writing.