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STANDARDIZATION AND REGULATORY PRACTICE

Review of developments

Information note from the Eurasian Economic Community

Note by the secretariat

At its sixteenth session, the Working Party invited national delegations and international and regional organizations to report on their standardization and regulatory activities, as well as on technical cooperation programmes with other countries or regions.

This document contains an information note from the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) on its developments in standardization and regulatory areas and is transmitted to the Working Party for information.

1. The Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) is an international economic organization comprised of six States: Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The agreement establishing EurAsEC was signed in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, on 10 October 2000.
2. EurAsEC is a signatory of the Customs Union, which was founded in 1995 by Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Tajikistan. EurAsEC was created to promote the Customs Union formation process and to establish a common free market. Today, the organization's primary goals are the harmonization of trade regulations and the elimination of trade barriers.
3. EurAsEC member States are currently accomplishing legislative reform in the field of standardization and technical regulation. The harmonization of legislation of its member States and a deepening of mutual cooperation and coordination are necessary for the coalescence and dynamic development of the EurAsEC and for its integration into the world economy and the international trade system.
4. At the 24 March 2005 session of the EurAsEC Interstate Council (Political Executive Level), the Agreement "On the basis of harmonization of Eurasian Economic Community member States' technical regulations" (hereinafter, the Agreement) was signed. The drafting of the Agreement was a basic step to eliminating technical barriers between the member States and maintaining the free movement of goods in the EurAsEC region.
5. The harmonization of technical regulations specified in the Agreement is based on the acceptance and implementation of unified EurAsEC technical regulations into member States' national legislative systems. According to the Agreement, EurAsEC technical regulation must be accepted within the EurAsEC framework and establish obligatory application and execution requirements for objects of technical regulation (e.g. products, buildings and structures, manufacturing processes, operations, storage, transportation and recycling). EurAsEC technical regulation also includes conformity assessment procedures and requirements for terminology and identification, including for packing, marking and labelling.
6. The Agreement pertains to the following areas of accepted EurAsEC technical regulation: harmonization of member States' technical legislation, life and health protection for citizens, environmental protection, consumer protection, and the elimination of unreasonable trade restrictions.
7. After acceptance by the EurAsEC Interstate Council (Political Executive Level), EurAsEC technical regulation is to be implemented by EurAsEC States according to their national legislation.
8. As a basis for the development of EurAsEC technical regulation, the use of international, regional and national standards, as well as national technical regulations, is envisaged.

9. The Enclosure to the Agreement defines the procedures of the EurAsEC technical regulation elaboration project, including areas such as decision-making on concrete technical regulations; the appointment of project developers; the consideration of the project at sessions of the Commission on technical regulation, sanitary, veterinary and phytosanitary measures; and the adoption of EurAsEC regulations.
10. The Agreement establishes that the EurAsEC Governments shall provide for the circulation of products corresponding to the requirements of EurAsEC technical regulations in the EurAsEC region without application of additional requirements for products and conformity assessment procedures, with the exception of State control.
11. The Agreement takes into account the principles of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade of the World Trade Organization as well as the provisions of the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission 2 Guide “Standardization and adjacent kinds of activity: Common dictionary”.
12. The Agreement will enter into force after reception by the Integration Committee of the final notice confirming performance by the Parties of inter-State procedures. The document has been ratified by Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation will ratify the Agreement in the near future.
13. The 27 October session of the EurAsEC Interstate Council (Political Executive Level) approved Recommendations on typical structures for EurAsEC technical regulations. The Recommendations are a key component of the harmonization of EurAsEC member States’ legislation in the sphere of technical regulation, and will provide for the application of uniform rules in the development of EurAsEC technical regulations.
14. Further development of the EurAsEC technical regulations was considered at the twelfth session of the Commission on technical regulation, sanitary, veterinary and phytosanitary measures, held on 19 and 20 March 2007. The Commission also decided on States’ developers for each technical regulation and on terms for this work.

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