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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Standardization of
Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Meeting of Experts on Co-ordination of
Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
(Forty-fourth session, 9 to 13 March 1998, Geneva)

Item 4 (j) of the Provisional Agenda

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS TO REVISE STANDARDS
ASPARAGUS

Note by the secretariat

The following proposal to amend the UN/ECE Standard for Asparagus was submitted by the delegation of Thailand. Following deliberations at the seventh session of the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables held in Mexico City in September 1997, the Working Party, at its fifty-third session, agreed to place the issue of including slender asparagus varieties on the agenda of the next session of the Meeting of Experts to allow further discussions.

Proposal to amend the UN/ECE Standard for Asparagus
Submitted by the delegation of Thailand

The delegation of Thailand is of the opinion that provisions concerning quality and provisions concerning sizing are separate items and should not be combined or correlated as it is currently the case. Therefore, the delegation of Thailand would like to propose the following table of sizes for the tropical green asparagus spears of which the delegation has the data:

Section III. Provisions concerning Sizing

B. Sizing by diameter

The diameter of the shoots shall be measured at the cut end in accordance with the following table:

Reference letter	Green
1	≥ 10 mm
2	8 mm - 10 mm
3	6 mm - 8 mm
4	3 mm - 6 mm

Sizing for the white, violet, violet/green and green spears in the current UN/ECE Standard is somewhat overlapping, not clear, and may be difficult for implementation and therefore needs amendments for practical purposes.