



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization  
of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables  
Seventy-first session

Geneva, 9–11 May 2023

Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Review of existing standards:**

**New proposals**

### Proposal by the delegation of Germany to amend the standard for asparagus

#### Submitted by the delegation of Germany

The following proposal was submitted to the Specialized Section for consideration by the delegation of Germany. The proposal concerns increasing the permissible allowed length of white and violet asparagus shoots to 24 cm to reduce food loss and waste.

#### I. Proposal

Germany proposes the following changes to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Standard FFV-04 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of asparagus.

##### Under section III. Provisions concerning sizing A. Sizing by length:

“The length of the shoots must be:

- above 17 cm for long asparagus
- 12 to 17 cm for short asparagus
- for Class II asparagus arranged, but not bundled in the package:
  - white and violet: 12 to ~~22~~24 cm
  - violet/green and green: 12 to 27 cm
- under 12 cm for asparagus tips.

The maximum length allowed for white and violet asparagus is ~~22~~24 cm, and for violet/green and green asparagus 27 cm.”



## **II. Justification**

By increasing the permissible length to 24 cm, food waste could be avoided. In the past there have been concerns about quality with longer shoots. With today's production methods, deeper planting and higher dams, these concerns can be alleviated. In recent years, further research and development have given the asparagus producers opportunities to improve the quality of longer asparagus shoots.

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