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Sir,

Please refer to the documents TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/5 : Proposals to Revise UN/ECE Standards prepared by the secretariat and TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1999/6 : Other Proposals Concerning Asparagus submitted by France.

We are pleased to enclose herewith our comments.

Yours sincerely,

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Comments of Thailand

Proposal for Revision of Standards for Asparagus

We would like to support the secretariat's proposal as it is the proposal adopted at the 8th session of the CCFFV and also on the basis agreed at the 44th session of the Meeting of Experts on Co-ordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables last year in order to support harmonization between Codex and UN/ECE standards.

The text in the document TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/1996/6: Other Proposals Concerning Asparagus cannot be justified by the following reasons.

1. Green asparagus is not slender. Their shoot varies, in diameter, from a few to over 10 or 12 mm. Although a shoot is of 3 mm., it is a young and fine shoot like a sprout. It is not woody as stated in the text and, naturally, it is of high or superior quality. The shoot is not thin, skinny or slender. The correct term should be small, very small or fine.

2. The definition of produce does not go well with the sizing table. The minimum diameter of slender green is rather large as compared to Codex which is more precise, condense and practical.

In conclusion, the secretariat's proposal, as it is conformed to the Codex draft, is in a better rational position, and will promote harmonization as this is the Codex and UN/ECE target.