

**Question for written answer E-014550/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Stanislav Polčák (PPE)

Subject: EU standards and the sale of fruit

According to estimates, 70% of this year's apple harvest in the Czech Republic will undergo further processing to be turned into apple juice and other apple products, as it is not suitable for direct consumption. The reason for this is standardisation: apples and other types of fruit and vegetables are subject to European standards. One of the standardisation parameters is the size of fruit. Due to this summer's drought in the Czech Republic, much of this year's apple crop is below the desired size and is thus excluded from sale. For various reasons, I find this exclusion to be highly unreasonable.

Does the Commission share my view that continued standardisation is an undesirable measure that unnecessarily deprives consumers of quality fresh apples and will it therefore consider abolishing the policy?