

EN
E-014550/2015
Answer given by Mr Hogan
on behalf of the Commission
(18.1.2016)

The Commission is not aware of estimates quoted by the Honourable Member concerning this year's Czech apple production.

For apples there exists indeed a specific EU marketing standard. To be marketed apples must have a minimum diameter of six cm, or five cm if a certain degree of maturity is guaranteed (sugar content of 10.5° Brix). This is in line with the provisions of the international standards for apples, developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and by Codex Alimentarius.

Such marketing and trading rules are made in the interest of producers and traders to enable a smooth functioning of the internal market but also in the interest of consumers to receive adequate and transparent product information.

Some exceptions to this apple marketing standard do exist. Smaller apples can always be directly sold by producers to consumers on the farm. In addition, Member States may provide exception from this marketing standard for sales on local markets. Finally, Member States can allow these products to be sold in retail shops on their territory, provided the apples are labelled as "intended for processing" or any equivalent wording. This enables small apples to find their way to consumers

A substantial reform and simplification of all marketing standards for fruit and vegetables was introduced in 2008.