

KENT MESSENGER

Euro straight talking

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I am heartened by the EU attempting to reform the strict rules governing standards on such matters as the colour of leeks, the bendiness of cucumbers and the shape of carrots.

This is good news as the credit crunch bites families in Gravesham. Farmers throw away mountains of cherries, onions, peas, plums and spinach because they are not beautiful or big enough. Many of us humans do not fit this category!

Imagine being a fruit and veg measuring bureaucrat. Cucumbers must be “practically straight” and their maximum bend must be at a gradient of no more than 1/10. Bananas “the thickness of a transverse section of the fruit between the lateral faces and the middle, perpendicular to the longitudinal axis ... must be at a minimum of 27mm”. The list goes on..... I wonder what the Gravesend market stall fruit and veg retailers think.