

**Question for written answer E-000446/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Illegal weapons in the EU

In the EU disaster is occasionally brought about by inexpert or unauthorised use of firearms, criminal acts, or, as we have seen in the recent events in France, terrorist crimes committed with unregistered firearms. Besides the fact that these weapons do not appear in any written record, those who perpetrate such acts do not have a gun licence. The obvious conclusion to be drawn is that within the EU there is a huge arsenal of unregistered firearms in the hands of potential criminals and it could be exploited for prohibited ends. Weapons of this kind constitute a threat to public safety and security. Croatia has a problem with privately owned unregistered firearms left over from the war in the 1990s, and the Ministry of the Interior has made several attempts to reduce the quantities of such weapons in the possession of private individuals.

1. Does the Commission have any estimate of the number of unlicensed weapons in the EU?
2. What action is being taken by the Commission and Member States? Are they planning to take new measures with a view to uncovering and registering illegal weapons, curbing trafficking, and generally reducing the quantity of illegal weapons in private hands, thereby making for greater public safety and security?