

**Question for written answer E-002088/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Renaud Muselier (PPE)

Subject: Control of the acquisition and possession of weapons

In the wake of the Paris attacks of November 2015, the Commission tabled proposals to amend Directive 91/477/EEC on the control of the acquisition and possession of weapons, which were presented to Parliament's IMCO Committee on 7 December 2015 and to the LIBE Committee on 14 January 2016.

Although the terrorist attacks perpetrated throughout Europe in 2015 have made a thorough overhaul of the EU Firearms Directive a political priority, recreational shooters, hunters and collectors should not be punished along with criminals. Private owners are insulted by the idea of a crack down on their hobbies and activities, which are practised in an extremely safe and controlled environment. The Commission is tarring peaceful enthusiasts and terrorists with the same brush.

The official statistics make no distinction between weapons used by national authorities (e.g. armed police) and those owned privately. It is simply not true that terrorists are using legal weapons, since converting blank-firing or deactivated weapons automatically renders them illegal. Banning all semi-automatic weapons, regardless of model, mechanism, size, age or historical value, would be to punish sportsmen, collectors, museums, history enthusiasts and hunters more than the terrorists themselves.

How will the Commission allay the concerns of weapons enthusiasts about weapons control in the EU?