

Question for written answer E-000343/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Renaud Muselier (PPE)

Subject: Rules regarding owners of weapons for recreational purposes

The review of Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons in the European Union proposes strengthening current EU laws by making the acquisition, possession, import and export of firearms for civilian use subject to a comprehensive EU regulatory framework.

Given the waves of terrorist attacks, efforts to combat firearms trafficking do indeed need to be redoubled via a consistent coordinated strategy at EU level. Borders do not stop weapons entering, as demonstrated daily by the many fighters returning to Europe from Syria.

Nevertheless, there are issues with this text when it comes to placing people who own a firearm for recreational purposes (shooting sportsmen/women or collectors) in the same category as arms traffickers and terrorists.

1. Can the Commission ensure that this text will not prohibit owners of weapons for recreational purposes from lawfully practising their sport?
2. Can it also ensure that procedures for newcomers wishing to take up a shooting sport of some kind will not be made needlessly complicated on account of unnecessary red tape?