

**Question for written answer P-008328/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Lorenzo Fontana (NI)

Subject: Transposition of Council Directive 91/477/EEC of 18 June 1991 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons

Under Directive 91/477/EEC (as amended by Directive 2008/51/EC) on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons, magazines for common firearms are no longer considered as weapon components but as accessories. Italy transposed the provisions of this directive under Legislative Decree No 204 of 26 October 2010.

However, this has now been amended by Legislative Decree No 121 of 29 September 2013 prohibiting possession of magazines containing more than a certain number of rounds (5 for long firearms and 15 for short firearms, with exception of sporting weapons).

Antiterrorism Decree No 7 of 18 February 2015 has once again made it compulsory to report illegal magazines and, from November 2015, the private purchase and sale thereof will be illegal. However, dealers will still be allowed to sell them freely.

Clearly, the restrictions that have been introduced to EU provisions concerning weapon accessories are creating confusion among members of the public, who now find themselves at risk of criminal prosecution if they bring into Italy arms with magazines that are illegal in that country but legal in the rest of Europe. Furthermore this restricts the possibility of purchasing weapons in other European countries if they are fitted with magazines that do not conform to requirements.

Given the complexity of this matter, which is causing considerable problems in Italy, can the Commission make clear its views regarding the legislation in question and the transposition of the relevant EU directive?