

**Question for written answer P-000671/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Commission proposal amending the EU firearms directive

The Commission has been working on a revision of the EU firearms directive for a number of years. Following the terrorist attacks in Paris in November 2015 the Commission introduced a proposal which, among other things, addresses the issue of semi-automatic weapons. The Commission proposes to move the B7 category ('semi-automatic weapons which resemble automatic weapons') to the A category, making them prohibited for civilian use. However, no detailed definition or criteria explaining which firearms are included in the B7 category are given in the proposal or in the study to support an impact assessment, which only concerns illicit arms, not legal arms. It is of general interest that the scope of the proposal is clear, for the sake of legal certainty.

1. Will the Commission come forward with a detailed and specific definition of the B7 category, so that legislators will know which semi-automatic firearms will be prohibited for civilians?
2. Will the Commission carry out an impact assessment covering the effects of previously legal firearms becoming illegal; for example, an estimate of how many firearms would have to be collected?
3. Which stakeholders and experts did the Commission consult before introducing the legislative proposal?