

**Question for written answer P-001499/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Olga Sehnalová (S&D)

Subject: Proposed ban on semi-automatic weapons

The proposal for a revision of the Firearms Directive refers to an evaluation concluding that some semi-automatic firearms can easily be converted to automatic firearms, thus posing a threat to security, and that it is therefore appropriate to ban some of them for civilian use. At the same time, semi-automatic weapons account for a significant share of today's hunting and sport-shooting weapons.

According to experts, the only conclusions generated by the Commission so far with respect to semi-automatic firearms state that no evidence was collected to support the concerns about security risks emerging from the conversion of semi-automatic weapons¹, and that in-depth analysis should be conducted on this issue².

Can the Commission provide technically and statistically founded arguments that justify the proposal to ban some semi-automatic firearms (the new categories A6 and A7)?

Why is the Commission proposing to prohibit only the two aforementioned categories of semi-automatic weapons (A6 and A7) as opposed to all other category B and C firearms? According to technical specifications and experts, the most powerful hunting rifles can clearly be as effective as category A6 and A7 firearms.

How would the Commission describe all the steps necessary to implement and enforce the revised directive, if the revision is approved?

¹ Evaluation of the Firearms Directive, Final report, p. 49.

² Ibid., p, 104.