

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection - IMCO
Public Hearing on Control of the Acquisition and Possession of Weapons
4 October 2006, Brussels

Conc.: Council Directive 91/477/EEC of 18 June 1991 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons (Weapons Directive)

Topic: "Possible additional measures against illicit manufacturing and trafficking"

Brief summary:

C.I.P.:

Commission Internationale Permanente pour l'épreuve des armes à feu portatives
Permanent International Commission for the proof of small-arms
Ständige Internationale Kommission zur Prüfung von Handfeuerwaffen

C.I.P. is the **Executive Authority** of the

Convention pour la reconnaissance réciproque des poinçons d'épreuves des armes à feu portatives
Convention regarding the establishment of uniform regulations for the reciprocal recognition of official proof marks on fire-arms
Übereinkommen über die gegenseitige Anerkennung von Beschusszeichen für Handfeuerwaffen

The Convention is an international agreement on government's level.

The Convention was adopted 1914, renewed 1969.

The Convention relates to fire-arms for civil use only (hunting, sporting and police)

The Convention is signed by: Austria, Belgium, Chile, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Spain at the time being.

Object of the Convention: **Consumer-protection**:

To avoid any accident/injury by blasted fire-arms the C.I.P. created a system of rules which are obligatory in all of the Member States of the Convention.

Main principles of this legally binding system:

Before putting on the market every fire-arm has to be

- controlled if carrying the obligatory signs (name of the manufacturer or officially known identifying mark of the manufacturer, country of manufacture, serial number, bore size),
- registered by its identification data
- checked on its technical aspects
- marked with unique marks (different ones for each country) and the month and year of test

All this is done by Official Proof-Houses exclusively. The Proof-Houses are part of the Official Administration of the Member States; they are established by law.

Traceability is guaranteed by the archives of the Proof-Houses; they hold a record with the history of all the fire-arms tested in the last 10 years minimum (up to permanently in some of the Member States). This means transparency for police-security.

Conclusion:

C.I.P.'s system works since more than 90 years perfectly.

Even if it was created by the reason of customer-protection it could work in all of the Member States of the EU for the aims of the UN Firearms Protocol too, fulfilling all its requirements without major adaptation.

EU-Weapons-Directive /91/477/EEC and C.I.P.-Convention are matching: both refer to fire-arms for civilian use only.

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