

**Question for written answer E-6102/2010
to the Council**
Rule 117
Christophe Béchu (PPE)

Subject: New rules on weapons

In the context of the fight against terrorism, the Commission has just published a proposal setting out new rules to govern the import and export, both inside and outside the European Union, of weapons used by hunters and other licensed owners (in particular collectors and competitive shooters).

By tightening up the rules applicable in the European Union, this proposal will have a direct impact on weapons manufacturers and gunsmiths, firms which often fall into the category of SMUs.

Although the aim of reducing the number of weapons in circulation in the EU is one which can only be fully endorsed, it is nevertheless surprising that the proposed rules should target firms which are already subject to very stringent controls, which sell mainly to hunters and sportsmen, and which, until proved otherwise, have never been a source of weapons for terrorists.

What steps does the Council plan to take in order to ensure that weapons manufacturers and traders are not penalised by a threat - terrorism - to which they are not in any way linked?