

**Question for written answer E-007873/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Satu Hassi (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Restricting the sale and possession of pepper and gas sprays

The 1991 EU Directive on the control of the acquisition and possession of weapons strictly limits sales of firearms, thus enhancing the safety of European citizens. However, the directive does not classify pepper and gas sprays as weapons. And yet all pepper or gas sprays can be used to harm other people, and accordingly there is cause to restrict their sale and possession by EU legislation. At present national rules vary widely. In several Member States even very powerful sprays, with which people can be harmed, may be freely sold. The illegal import of such sprays into countries which restrict their use and possession is far too easy.

Is the Commission aware of this problem, and has it considered regulating pepper and gas sprays in an EU directive or regulation?