

**Question for written answer E-000158/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Carlo Fidanza (PPE)

Subject: Transposition of Regulation (EU) No 258/2012

Regulation (EU) No 258/2012 implementing Article 10 of the UN Firearms Protocol and establishing export authorisation, and import and transit measures for firearms, their parts and components and ammunition was published in the Official Journal in March 2012.

The purpose of the regulation is to create a uniform system for trade in firearms, harmonising and simplifying the relevant procedures for the benefit of European companies specialising in this sector, combating illegal trafficking of firearms for civil use and promoting greater cooperation with third countries, high safety standards, effective action against firearms trafficking and better traceability of firearms.

In Italy, the arms manufacturing sector boasts a turnover of more than 250 million (out of a total turnover of almost 700 million in Europe), with more than 100 companies and 3 000 employees; 90 % of the firearms manufactured are earmarked for export.

In Italy, the implementation of the regulation has led to an increase in red tape, with the volume of paperwork generated in connection with the necessary controls more than quadrupling, while in other Member States it would seem that there has been a lax approach to implementing the new rules. This has resulted in an imbalance between the Member States in terms of the time and costs involved in complying with the regulation's requirements.

1. Does the Commission intend to check that Italy has transposed the regulation correctly?
2. What action does it intend to take to check how, and how fully, the regulation has been transposed in the various countries, so as to avoid a situation where transposition differences give companies in some Member States an unfair competitive advantage?