

**Question for written answer E-002902/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Clarification regarding the proposed revision of Regulation (EU) No 258/2012 on import and export measures for firearms

The proposed revision of Regulation (EU) No 258/2012 on import and export measures for firearms is expected to have a major impact on trade, industry, hunting, target shooting and weapons collecting. Some of the objectives concerning the import of firearms appear to be unachievable or to run counter to the current Directive (EU) 2021/555.

The revised text is ideologically confused with regard to civilian and military weapons.

It was proposed that, to issue an export licence, Member States must first obtain an end-user certificate from the receiving state, establishing that the authorising state could then verify adherence to the commitments made in the framework of the EUC. The EUC concerns the export of military weapons and requires the authorisation of the exporting country for the re-export of the relevant materials.

It is therefore inapplicable to civilian weapons placed on the market for third parties, where the final recipient is not usually known when the export licence is issued. Civilian weapons have no military relevance and the EUC makes sense only when the recipient is a public body.

Is the Commission aware of the serious problems arising from the document and can it consider, for civilian weapons, leaving the export licence be and reducing the time taken to issue it?

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