

**Question for written answer E-002966/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez (PPE)

Subject: Application of the Firearms Regulation to foreigners and third-country residents in Spain

The Firearms Regulation in Spain lays down requirements and procedures for the possession and use of firearms by foreigners and Spanish citizens who do not reside in EU Member States. These requirements include obtaining a special authorisation, providing certain documentation and requiring the return of weapons when leaving the national territory.

Citizens of the US wishing to hunt in Spain face difficulties when importing their weapons into Spain due to the additional obligations imposed on them to obtain the applicable authorisations. Hunters in the US have no specific firearms permit, which has led to Spanish consulates in the US requiring American hunters to provide additional documentation that goes beyond the provisions of Spanish law and current European regulations. This situation creates administrative barriers for importing arms from the US to practise the sport of hunting.

Is the Commission aware of this situation and does it believe it could be addressed in the review of the above-mentioned Regulation, which is currently being carried out by Parliament and the Council?

Submitted: 6.10.2023