

**Question for written answer P-001605/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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**Subject:** Consequences of the proposed directive on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons and the possibility of transitional provisions

On 18 November 2015 the Commission proposed a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons. The proposed directive's main objectives include the strict (absolute) ban on ownership of automatic firearms by private persons and enterprises, an absolute ban on the possession of certain semi-automatic firearms and stricter rules on the possession of deactivated firearms, including the requirement to register them. There are fears, however, that many of the firearms that fall under that list would not be surrendered and would instead end up in the illegal sphere.

1. Has the Commission estimated how many firearms that are currently legally owned would be pushed into the illegal sphere by the introduction of the new directive?
2. What transitional measures will be taken and how will the authorities get hold of weapons that are currently legally owned but are to be banned?
3. What will the financial costs be and who is to bear them?