

RESOLUTION
of the Intergroup on Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside
on the
Proposal of the European Commission to amend the
EU Firearms Directive

Recalling that Council Directive 91/477/EEC of 18 June 1991 on the control of the acquisition and possession of weapon as amended by Directive 2008/51/EC, is the overarching legal instrument for setting out certain minimum conditions for the acquisition, possession and transfer of civilian firearms inside the European Union (EU) territory;

Further recalling that the Firearms Directive 91/477/EEC was adopted in the context of the completion of the Internal Market with a view to ensure the free movement of legal firearms, while enshrining safety and precautionary measures in the directive;

Further recalling that the revision of this directive in 2008 partly arose from the international commitments of the Union, namely from the signing of the United Nations Protocol on the fight against illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms;

Welcoming the firm reaction of the European Commission against terrorism;

Underlining that acts of terrorism constitute one of the most serious violations of the universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity, the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and thus one of the most serious attacks on the principles of democracy and the rule of law on which the European Union is founded;

Supporting the adequate control of firearms, including justified and proportionate restrictions to their acquisition and possession;

Noting that the Commission has not accompanied the amendment proposal with an impact assessment in line with the intentions of the Commission as laid out in the



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Communication on Better Regulation COM(2015) 215 and the Better Regulation principles;

Alarmed that in the absence of an impact assessment the proposed measures could have a disproportionate impact on legal users of firearms;

The European Parliament Intergroup on Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside

1. *Applauds* the European Commission for proposing measures improving the marking and increasing the traceability of firearms and improving cross-border exchange of information amongst law enforcement agencies;
2. *Strongly believes* that the fight against terrorism must be carried out with appropriate legal instruments targeting illegal rather than legal activities;
3. *Calls* on the European Commission and the Council of the EU to focus on issues of concern such as illicit trafficking, instead of restricting legal use;
4. *Rejects* the proposal to ban a firearms category based on its appearance rather than on functionality characteristics;
5. *Urges* the European Commission to uphold the subsidiarity principle in matters concerning minimum age, periodicity and medical tests, and only adopt minimum rules and specifications for the storage of firearms and ammunition;
6. *Urges* the European Commission to avoid discriminations of specific user groups, such as hunters and sport shooters, when considering the legitimate use of the Internet and distance sales, which shall be subject to the strict control of the Member States;
7. *Urges* the European Commission to tackle the problem of improperly converted fully automatic firearms entering the EU market by proposing common conversion standards to ensure that these automatic firearms are converted irreversibly;
8. *Urges* the European Commission to ensure the implementation of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2403 establishing common guidelines on the deactivation of firearms;
9. *Recommends* that European Commission and Member States take steps to engage in trans-boundary cooperation, to tackle illicit trafficking and organised crime.



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