

**Question for written answer E-015262/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jean-François Jalkh (ENF)

Subject: Proposed revision of Directive 2008/51/EC on firearms

The Commission seems to have used the Paris massacre of Friday, 13 November 2015 as a pretext to put forward a proposal for the revision of Directive 2008/51/EC on firearms, a text it has been working on for a year.

In the proposal, the Commission has inevitably made the basic error of lumping together the illegal possession of weapons by terrorists with the legal possession of weapons by responsible citizens, whether hunters, recreational shooters or collectors.

As a result, there is a flagrant contradiction between the grounds the Commission invokes to justify the proposal, the use of illegal automatic weapons, and its real objective, banning legal semi-automatic weapons.

Terrorists and other criminals will simply ignore such rules at a time when the illegal firearms trade is flourishing unhampered by border controls in the Schengen area.

Did the Commission foresee this problem, and if so, what steps has it taken to address it?