

**Question for written answer E-016099/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Markus Pieper (PPE)**

Subject: Tightening of firearms legislation

On Monday, 7 December 2015 the Commission presented to the European Parliament a package of measures to tighten firearms legislation. As part of recent consultations in the context of the review of Directive 91/477/EEC, concerns were expressed about the possible negative consequences for small and medium-sized enterprises in the field in question, concerns that focused in particular on plans to tighten the rules governing deactivated weapons. The planned measures would mean a disproportionate cost for responsible SMEs currently working in the field of weapons accessories and might even drive some of them out of business. In the weapon accessory manufacturing process, deactivated weapons are used to ensure the necessary precision and there is no viable alternative.

Given this package of measures and the possible consequences for small and medium-sized companies, will the Commission say:

1. Does it consider that the effects of the proposed changes will be proportionate, in view of the possible negative consequences for small and medium-sized weapon accessory enterprises?
2. Is it seeking exemptions for small and medium-sized weapon accessory enterprises with respect to the use of deactivated weapons in the production process (in particular in relation to the handling and storage of deactivated Category A weapons)?