

Question for written answer E-016055/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Jens Nilsson (S&D)

Subject: Semi-automatic weapons: Commission's new proposals for the Firearms Directive

On 18 November 2015 the Commission submitted initial draft proposals for more stringent rules in the Firearms Directive. The proposals came only five days after the most recent terrorist attacks in Paris. The new proposal contains a number of tighter rules and further restrictions on the acquisition and possession of automatic and semi-automatic weapons. It is not clear from the rules in their present form what semi-automatic weapons the Commission proposes to ban. Semi-automatic weapons are used for both sport shooting and hunting without any link to crime or terrorism.

In the light of the above, I should like to ask:

1. Can the Commission clarify exactly which 'automatic firearms which have been converted into semi-automatic firearms' and 'semi-automatic firearms for civilian use which resemble weapons with automatic mechanisms' are intended to be the subject of a total ban?
2. How does the Commission consider that the proposals for more stringent rules on legal firearms will help effectively combat crime and terrorism without such measures impinging on the lawful activities of hunters and sport shooters?