

**Question for written answer E-015566/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)

Subject: Proposal for a revision of Directive 91/477/EEC

The Commission proposal for a revision of Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons is 'a response to recent terrorist acts which demonstrated gaps in [its] implementation'. The Commission refers to the Study to Support an Impact Assessment on Options for Combatting Illicit Firearms Trafficking in the European Union, which states: 'Most illicit firearms originate from cross-border trafficking, often from outside the EU', and 'according to Europol, the amount of heavy firearms and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in circulation in the EU seems to satisfy much of the demand at present and suppliers in south-eastern Europe have the capacity to meet any rise in demand in the foreseeable future'.

1. On what grounds does the Commission expect that further restrictions on the lawful possession of civilian firearms will neutralise this apparently thriving black market in illegal assault weapons used by criminals and terrorists?
2. Can the Commission substantiate its implied claim that the lawful possession of civilian firearms is somehow linked to the circulation within the EU of illegal assault weapons used for criminal activities and terrorist attacks?