

**Question for written answer E-016080/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Dita Charanzová (ALDE)**

Subject: The new Commission proposal on the firearms directive

On 18 November 2015 the Commission adopted amendments to Directive 91/477/EEC on firearms. These measures were taken in order to make it more difficult to acquire firearms in the EU, better track legally held firearms, strengthen cooperation between Member States and ensure that deactivated firearms are rendered inoperable.

However, the Commission's proposal also included a point on stricter rules with regard to certain semi-automatic firearms. There are serious concerns among EU citizens who are currently in legal possession of a firearm, and fully comply with relevant national and EU legislation in force, that the Commission's proposal would have a negative impact on their individual rights. There is a fear that they would have to get rid of their weapons, despite the fact that they were acquired legally.

1. Is the Commission proposal meant to ban semi-automatic weapons, some of which are used by their legal owners for hunting or sports purposes?
2. In the event that the Commission decides to ban any type of firearm which up until now could be held by a citizen for private purposes, how will it then proceed? Will the owners of such firearms have to get rid of them without any compensation?
3. How will the Commission decide which semi-automatic firearms are to be potentially banned?