

**Question for written answer E-015848/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Anna Elżbieta Fotyga (ECR)

Subject: Comments on the proposed amendments to Directive 91/477/EEC

I agree that access to firearms should be governed by strict laws. Those laws should protect society by preventing irresponsible persons from getting hold of firearms, combating the smuggling and trafficking of firearms and targeting the mechanisms by which terrorists are supplied with firearms – an issue which was brought to the fore in the aftermath of the Paris attacks. There are reports, however, that those hit hardest by the proposed amendments to Directive 91/477/EEC will be collectors, historical reconstructors and shooting clubs. What is more, existing or planned territorial defence structures could be dismantled in a number of Member States. I have also received some worrying reports from war history museums and individual collectors. The proposed amendments are causing problems because of their extremely broad definition of ‘military weapons’, which incorporates all kinds of weapons manufactured in the past, firearms which have been permanently disabled, and even toys that resemble military weapons. The rules governing the deactivation and labelling of weapons are incomprehensible, and no definition has been given for the concept of ‘collector’. These ambiguities, and – in a few cases – some very strange rules, can almost certainly be put down to the fact that the Commission failed to carry out the proper public consultation procedures.

1. Is the Commission aware of the concerns raised by collectors, reconstructors, shooting clubs and museums about the proposed amendments?
2. What steps will it take to make sure that the amendments to Directive 91/477/ECC target criminals and terrorists, and not history enthusiasts?