



This text was sent in English or German language in personalized form to all 751 members of the European Parliament.

Dear Member of the European Parliament

On 14 March, you as MEP, will be voting on the amendment of European arms legislation in the EU Parliament, according to the mandate of your electorate. We represent an association defending the interests of legal weapon owners and also understand ourselves as a civil rights movement. In the same way as you are, we are legitimated by a democratic election process, thus fulfilling our mission on behalf of our members and voters, and in accordance with our democratic and political convictions.

More than 15 million citizens of the European Union will be directly affected by the proposed EU firearms legislation. These law-abiding people see themselves under general condemnation in the current as well as in the past debates on this subject: This impression is becoming more and more solidified from amendment to amendment, while at the same time the public support of the European Union is in decline.

The proposed firearms guideline, lying dormant for a long time, was suddenly placed back on the political agenda by the EU commission after the terrible terrorist events of Paris and Brussels and then rushed under great time pressure through the debates. What we saw here was a political campaign of the worst kind: The so-called experts manipulated numbers, drew wrong conclusion and presented thinly disguised biased opinions as inevitable facts. Any opposition against the commission's arguments was confronted with polemics such as that the gun collectors, sport shooters and hunters placed their personal interests over the protection and security of the European population, hence indirectly supporting terrorism.

But the proposed package of measures, written up by the EU Commission does not offer any active counterterrorist measures. They only address legally owned weapons in the hands of law abiding citizens and fail to any present any practical proposals or ideas on how to counteract the actual problem - the illegal arms trafficking and the clandestine cross-border transfer of firearms and other means of terrorist armament.

On the other hand, extensive confiscation of private property and the destruction of cultural assets have been on the Commission's political agenda since November 2015, and nobody can rightly explain to the European citizens, how such measures will defend Europe and the freedom of its people. In our opinion, the proposed regulations contain blatant mistakes in both craftsmanship and content, which will simply have the effect of creating new unwanted side facts purely due to the complexity. A point in case is the bureaucratic deactivation proposals which simply do not work in reality and have been found to be counterproductive. These can hardly be comprehended by the individual legal owner, and will lead in the end effect to the

criminalization of a to date completely legitimate and law-abiding population large group of our society.

On the other hand, there is no real gain in public security to be detected from these new regulations. And we consider it an insult to the collective intelligence of the European people, that the EU commission was actually trying to pretend that there is a credible link between the terrorist threat and the firearms held by hunters, sportsmen, reservists, museums and reenactment groups.

Similar to the previous EU commission work tasked against organized crime some years ago, the group of experts or "task force" which was formed by Mrs. Malmstrøm under the guidance of Mr. Fabio Marini has completely lost sight and track of the actual objectives of its work. Instead of coming up with measures with which the European Union could hamper or stop illegal arms trafficking, a bureaucratic monster was born dealing solely with legally owned firearms. The development and implementation of the EU Firearms regulation has already resulted in a huge waste of resources at the Brussels level. More so, it will continue for years to tie personnel, computer time, energy and substantial financial resources in all European member states.

A group of MEPs has recently proposed amendments on how the proposed amendment to Directive 91/477 can be made simpler, more lawful and fairer, thus more effective. We therefore urge you as MEP, to embrace the proposals seriously, to accept to implement, or to reject the amendment of Directive 91/477 altogether.

Another deficit of the amendment is that the current directive is designed in such a way as to leave at the national level a very wide margin of interpretation - and thus, to a certain extent, the opposite of European harmonization will be achieved.

The entire bureaucratic process so far was characterized by lack of transparency and distrust, and also by the presumption and arrogance of the administrative staff involved in the amendment towards the objections raised by the associations concerned and their representatives. This cannot be in line with the European idea. Certainly, a new phenomenon emerged in the EU's legislative history is the fact that so many citizens have become involved and opposed an ongoing European legislative process. The threats and pressure exerted by the EU commission's "task force" has caused the EU law-abiding citizens, affected by the changes to become organized and to speak with one voice.

From an objective point of view, this is also a two-edged sword, the less transparent and balanced, the more complex the processes are, especially in sight of so many obvious birth defects, the faster quick and easy answers come into play. Therefore, we request you either to approve the latest amendments or vote entirely against the Commission's proposal.

with best regards

the **prolegal** Directorate

Dr. David Th. Schiller
Thomas Kullmann
Rolf W. Schwacke
Thomas Dillenburger

Reiner Assmann
Dr. Markus Bartram
Kurt Bull

Nico Catalano
Dipl. Ing. Ernst Bader
Rolf Dudeck