

AFEMS and IEACS, representing the majority of European manufacturers of civilian firearms and ammunition, believe that the EC proposal to amend Directive 91/477/EC requires deeper review.

Some measures were proposed by the EC and Council without an impact assessment. Moreover, they were mainly drafted with the aim to give a reply to public opinion. Legal manufacturers, distributors and end users would suffer considerable damage without any benefit for public security.

There is no scientific evidence proving that a reduction in the quantity and type of legal firearms has any effect on crime and terrorism. Official EU sources confirm that the rate of crime committed with legal civilian firearms is exceptionally low even in Member States with the highest per capita rate of firearm ownership.

According to the UN, the EU already has the best regional legislation in place. What is required is uniform enforcement and not unreasonable restrictions on the legal sector.

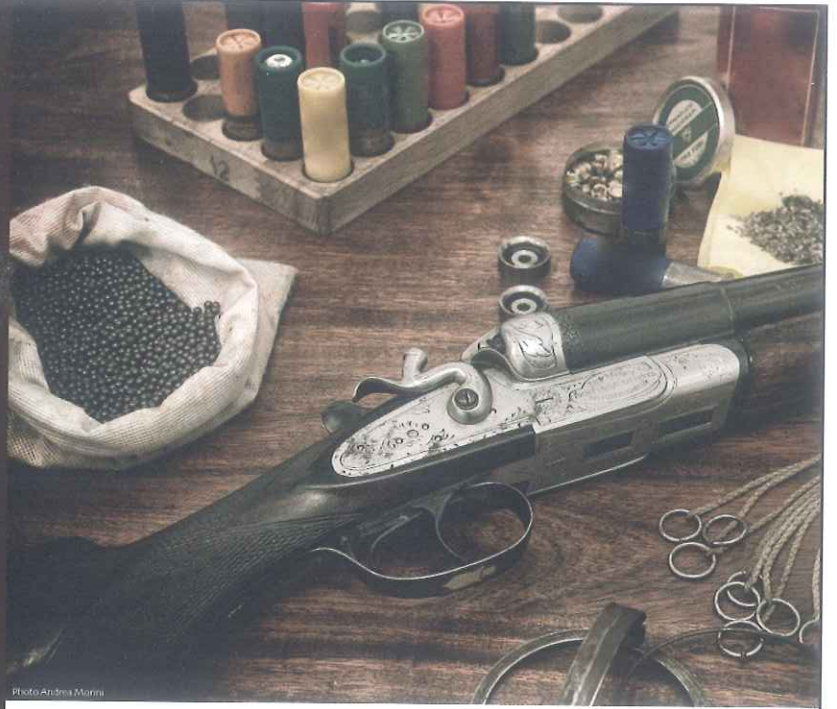


Photo: Andrea Morini



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Stricter rules on firearms will only widen the gap between citizens and EU Institutions

Against the backdrop of Brexit and terrorism the European Parliament is discussing the EU Firearms Directive

12 million hunters and sport shooters in the European Union legally and responsibly use firearms. They do not pose a danger to society and are among the most intensely controlled and law abiding social groups in the EU. The Commission's proposal to change the conditions to legally obtain firearms and ban certain categories will affect them seriously.

The proposal to review the Firearms Directive was rushed by the European Commission only five days after the tragic Paris events of November 13th.

The Commission has contradicted its own Better Regulation policy by failing to produce an impact assessment, making it difficult to understand the rationale behind its proposals. Confusion has spread

amongst hunters and sport shooters who feel unfairly targeted while terrorists are wreaking havoc with war weapons illegally obtained from the black market.

The European Parliament IMCO and LIBE Committees criticized the Commission and defended the rights of hunters and sport shooters. The parliamentary Intergroup "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" adopted a resolution rejecting the ban of certain semi-automatic rifles.

The British referendum is proof of a widening gap between the EU Institutions and citizens. The Commission's proposal for a revision of the Firearms Directive, if passed, would give yet another argument to the detractors of an integrated and democratic Europe.



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