



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate A: Internal security
Firearms Task Force

The Head of the Task Force

Brussels, 17 December 2013
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United Firearms
European Gun Owners Confederation
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Dear Sir,

Our Commissioner, Ms Malmström, has asked me to reply to your letter of complaint regarding the risk of jeopardizing the right to keep arms that, as we have understood, you recently promoted.

I would like to reassure you that the strategy proposed by the Commission is all about protecting citizens and communities from violent crime. It is about keeping illegal firearms off our streets, and cracking down on the criminal networks that trade in illegal firearms.

Many EU countries have well-functioning gun legislation in place, yet divergences between national legislation make it easier for organised crime groups and those involved in terrorist activity to exploit gaps in legal supply chains to obtain weapons and ammunition.

Our recent Eurobarometer survey indicated that most Europeans support stricter firearm controls, and two-thirds support EU action - in cooperation with national authorities – against firearms trafficking.

We know that thousands of people use their firearms legally for hunting and leisure, these are responsible, law-abiding citizens and we do not want to disrupt these traditional activities.

There were many constructive ideas which came out of the consultation, it is our task now to address those concerns, to reassure legitimate users of civil firearms that we aim to minimise interference with their lawful activities, whilst also doing as much as possible to address the problems which are exploited by criminals.

All the information that you have requested is published on our webpage

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/trafficking-in-firearms/index_en.htm

We have received letters from several EU countries and, according to our internal rules, we have decided to answer the source of this petition and we invite you to inform all your members and supporters.

A copy of this letter will be also published on our webpage.

Yours sincerely,

Fabio MARINI