



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.4.2016
C(2016) 1724 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senate for its Opinion on the Commission proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons {COM(2015) 750 final}.

As the Senate acknowledges in its Opinion the threats posed by organised crime and terrorism transcend national borders. The revisions to the existing firearms Directive set out in the Commission proposal therefore seek to ensure a coordinated and coherent response at EU level to such cross-border challenges that cannot be fully addressed by the Member States acting alone.

In bringing forward its proposal, the Commission has sought to strike the appropriate balance between the legitimate interests of hunters, sports shooters and collectors on the one hand and the security of the EU citizens on the other hand, whilst respecting the principle of subsidiarity as enshrined in the Treaties.

The Commission has taken note of the Senate's remarks concerning the need for transitional measures for certain types of firearms and will take them into consideration during discussions with the European Parliament and the Council, where your government is represented. The Commission will of course carefully analyse any amendment which may improve the proposal whilst preserving the security of European citizens.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senate and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Elżbieta Bienkowska
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the Senato della Repubblica
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