



----- WWW.FIREARMS-UNITED.COM ----- WWW.FIREARMS-UNITED.COM ----- WWW.FIREARMS-UNITED.COM -----

APRIL 13, 2016

CALL TO ACTION

As you are most certainly aware, the European Council Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs currently headed by the Dutch Presidency, are discussing the European Commission's proposal to drastically modify the *Directive on acquisition and possession of weapons* (91/477/EEC as modified by Directive 2008/51/EEC).

The same proposal is being simultaneously discussed by the European Parliament through its [IMCO](#) Committee which has assigned the task of revising the Commission's document to a team of members composed of a Rapporteur and seven Shadow Rapporteurs, each representing a different political group within the European Parliament.

The Rapporteur and the Shadow Rapporteurs have been very critical of the Commission's proposal which they consider to be badly drafted and disproportionate in its negative effect on legal firearm owners and users. The IMCO discussions may be followed on the European Parliament's record.

These are the contact details of the MEPs who make up this team:

Rapporteur: [MEP Vicky Ford \(ECR – UK\)](#).

Shadow Rapporteurs:

- [MEP Sergio Cofferati \(S&D – Italy\)](#)
- [MEP Dita Charanzová \(ALDE – Czech Republic\)](#)
- [MEP Jiří Maštálka \(GUE/NGL – Czech Republic\)](#)
- [MEP Pascal Durand \(EFA – France\)](#)
- [MEP Anna Maria Corazza Bildt \(EPP/CD – Sweden\)](#)
- [MEP Robert Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz \(EFDD – Poland\)](#)
- [MEP Mylène Troszczynski \(ENF – France\)](#)

Ms. Ford published her first official [Draft Report](#) on March 29. It is far from perfect in our view however it addresses several serious issues: the irresponsible destruction of Category A firearms held by collectors, the deactivation of Category A firearms in museum collections, the registration of replicas and a ban of firearms based on appearance were apparently rejected. In its current revised form, the draft has some helpful points, e.g. limiting the application of the Directive solely to objects that contain at least one essential part of firearm, thereby automatically excluding all replicas, toys, airsoft and other harmless items.

However, the proposal still includes few points that need further revision. These include:

- The inclusion of Collectors under the Directive based on an unfounded and absurd allegation that persons recognised as collectors in their Member States are a possible source of trafficking of firearms; this will have serious consequences on heritage;
- The manufacture and modification of firearms and ammunition will only be permitted if performed by licensed dealers; this could potentially ban hand-reloading, a popular practice among hunters and sport shooters;
- All essential firearm parts are to be marked irremovably with data such as the manufacturer, country of origin, year and serial number. The problem here is twofold: firstly, some essential parts (namely pistol frames) can be made of plastic and consequently cannot be marked irremovably; secondly the retroactive marking of old firearms would damage their historic value.
- The re-categorisation of automatic firearms converted into civilian semi-automatic firearms into category A; this would mean a total ban on demilitarized firearms, which are very popular among shooters in several Member States. Such a ban would result in the criminalisation of their owners, or huge expenses for Member States resulting from compensations for confiscation.

We do not believe that these flaws in Vicky Ford's Draft Proposal result from ill intent. We should understand that the Rapporteurs are *not well versed in this field*, and thus the consequences of the wording could easily be overlooked. Moreover the MEPs *are under strong political pressure from the Commission, and in some cases, also from their own governments*. Mrs. Ford deserves credit for rejecting some points that were, and still are, strongly supported by the British Government.

Thus this is a time when all legal firearm owners and indeed everyone who values the importance of citizens' rights are expected to devote some time to writing letters and emails to their MEPs.

However remember that you should write in the appropriate tone. Our letters are intended to reach MEPs who have in their majority taken a position in favour of your rights. These elected representatives are aware of their responsibilities to their electorate. This is precisely why it is so important that you show them your appreciation. They require our support to maintain their stance in the face of pressure from the non-elected bureaucrats of the Commission.

Our fight is against the Commission, which has cynically used the recent terrorist attacks for the purposes of its agenda to severely limit legal firearm ownership. It has done so with great arrogance and deceit, quoting wrong statistics, manipulating survey results and slandering citizens to create a pretext for action.

There are two reasons why we shall not publish any templates for you to copy and paste.

Firstly MEPs themselves admit that personal contact has much greater impact. They are more likely to give attention to your correspondence if you introduce yourself, point out the issues and propose solutions. They will not appreciate 'spam mail'.

Secondly, MEPs must be made aware that you are willing to do far more in defence of your rights than just copy and paste messages. Be firm but polite.

At most it will cost you a few minutes, up to one hour, of your time. But let's be honest: those who are not willing to sacrifice minutes or even hours of your spare time in defence of our just cause,

probably *do not deserve the protection that we are fighting for.*

We also ask you to spread this message within the specialist media that covers our activities as well as within online forums. While our task is to coordinate our action on a European level, your objective is to ensure that your MEPs are well informed.

It's time for the European gun owners' and gun enthusiasts' community to establish a direct contact with their MEPs – in a different tone this time. Keep in mind: you won't be writing to people who want to infringe on your right – you are writing to people who are *protecting it*. The Commission is the body who furiously insist on as large infringements as possible, and is perfectly willing to lie and deceit for that. On the other hand, European Parliament proved itself as bulwark that thwarted most of these attacks – because MEPs know they have a responsibility in the eyes of the citizens that they represent.

That's why they need to hear you now – to hear that you appreciate their stance, that you wish them to persist in defense of your rights and not to bend from pressure from Commission's bureaucrats. After all, they are elected, unlike Commission's bureaucrats – who else should support them? How could they resist the prolonged pressures from the European Commission, the Council, GENVAL and other entities – including many national Governments from all Europe – that are constantly trying to corrupt or blackmail them into yielding to the EU gun ban plans, if they can't genuinely feel and *prove that they have our support?*

You can find the full list of MEPs on the European Parliament website [here](#), or you can search by Country [here](#). Focus your attention on your elected representatives regardless of their political and personal stance on firearms

Do not bother writing to the Commission itself. They simply do not care and it is impossible to accomplish anything in good faith with them. On the contrary they may use your anger at them as proof of firearm owners' aggression for which ownership should be restrained.

FEEL FREE MAKE CHANGES ACT TOGETHER

WWW.FIREARMS-UNITED.COM

FIREARMS UNITED
WORLDWIDE CONFEDERATION
OF GUN OWNERS

The image is a promotional banner for Firearms United. It features a black handgun in the foreground. Above the handgun, the text 'FEEL FREE', 'MAKE CHANGES', and 'ACT TOGETHER' is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this text, the website address 'WWW.FIREARMS-UNITED.COM' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the handgun, there is a blue shield-shaped logo with a white 'F' and 'U' inside, and the text 'FIREARMS UNITED' and 'WORLDWIDE CONFEDERATION OF GUN OWNERS' below it. The background is a gradient of blue and white.