**Name]**

**Adress**

**Telephone**

**Emailaddress**

[26 June 2016]

**[Dhr/Mevr. …… lijst EU Parlementsleden]**

[Member of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Commission]

[European Parliament]

[Address]

[City, ST ZIP Code]

Dear [Recipient]:

I am writing to you with regards to a *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*.

It has come to my understanding that the European Commission in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on Paris and Brussels saw the need of strengthening the current EU firearms directive.

The strengthening of this directive would inter alia consist in a radical modification of the Category A - firearms, being the prohibited firearms. More specifically a whole new category of at present legally purchased semi-automatic firearms would become illegal, merely, on the one hand, because they have the ‘looks’ of firearms used by terrorists and because, on the other hand, for some non-scientifically supported[[1]](#footnote-2), statistically irrelevant and contra factual reasons they would relate to the actions of terrorist individuals or groups who wish to destroy the very foundations our democratic nations are built on.

By including a large category of non-problematic wide-spread firearms on European soil to the list of legally unwanted firearms, a significant number of legal owning and law-abiding European Citizens would be deprived of their much used firearms for perfectly acceptable purposes such as sport shooting, hunting and collecting. The poor motivation of this far-reaching proposal makes it clear to me that it follows an entirely different agenda than that of countering terrorism, i.e. rather one of a step-by-step disarmament of European civilians opposing no threat at all to democracy.

Considering the above, I would like to call upon your critical insights to seriously put in question the entire initiative to the extent it tries to reach far beyond the effect it might have on the battle against terrorism. Instead of focusing on new measures, Europe should concentrate on enforcing the existing legal framework by investing the necessary governmental resources in fighting the illicit trafficking of equally illicit firearms. Any political initiative focusing on a non-problematic category of firearms and individuals making use of them, is a failed political opportunity to do the right thing and comes only to benefit of the people or organizations totally ignoring the laws and regulations of our democratic societies.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

1. <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/research-directories/current-projects/2014/examination-of-firearms-and-forensics-in-europe-and-across-territories-effect/> - <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/Global/EFFECT%20Project%20recommendations%20FINAL%2011.04.16.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)