



November 19th, 2015

Dear Regional Directors,

Most likely you already have heard about the upcoming opening of the European Firearms Directive. We are writing to share our understanding of the current situation.

Today the EU has decided to open up and suggest amendments to the European Firearms Directive and the anti gun lobby has managed to include strict anti gun legislation that could be a huge problem for hunters and sportsmen in the EU in general and for the IPSC sport in particular.

The proposals need to be analyzed in more depth but first impression are that they are aimed at law abiding legal gun owners. In particular the suggestions are challenging for IPSC rifle shooting since they want to ban possession of semiautomatic rifles used in our sport. Those Europeans who today own IPSC rifles will have them confiscated.

Right now it is unclear but the proposal also *seem* to include ban and confiscation of all semiautomatic shotguns and all semiautomatic pistols.

We think it would be wise, the sooner the better, to establish contact with your political connections in order to counteract the proposal.

We would also advise you to share this information with all members in your region in order to raise awareness of the proposed ban and confiscation thus encouraging them to contact their local politicians as well as other hunting and shooting organizations. Not to forget being active in social media.

It is important now to stand together against politicians who use the 13<sup>th</sup> of November tragedy in France to restrict gun rights for licensed law abiding hunters and sport shooters.

Time is of the essence in this matter. We need to start counteracting quickly. Our sources tell us that the EU wish to vote on this already in January thus taking advantage of the fact that it is difficult to organize opposition during the Christmas Holidays. There is, allegedly, a first meeting already on Friday this week (20<sup>th</sup> of November).

This is an existential question for us hence our greatest administrative battle so far. We find it deeply inappropriate that the EU politicians exploit the tragedy in France in this way. See next page for a link to the proposal and extracts from the proposal.

DVC

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IPSC General Secretary

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French IPSC Regional Director

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Link to the EU proposal

<http://neurope.eu/wires/european-commission-strengthens-control-of-firearms-across-the-eu/>

At the bottom of the linked page there is access to translations to all EU languages.

Extracts from the proposal:

- Stricter rules to **ban certain semi-automatic firearms**, which will not, under any circumstance, be allowed to be held by private persons, even if they have been permanently deactivated;

“Semi-automatic weapons represent a high share of today's hunting and sport-shooting weapons. However, the evaluation study concludes that some semi-automatic arms can be easily converted to automatic arms, and the existing Directive does not provide any technical criteria to prevent such conversion. However, even in the absence of conversion to category 'A', certain semi-automatic firearms can be very dangerous when their capacity regarding the number of rounds is high. The proposal bans the semi-automatic weapons which are included in the current category 'B7'.”

“Semi-automatic firearms for civilian use which resemble weapons with automatic mechanisms”

“Some semi-automatic firearms can be easily converted to automatic firearms, thus posing a threat to security. Even in the absence of conversion to category 'A', certain semi-automatic firearms may be very dangerous when their capacity regarding the number of rounds is high. Such semi-automatic weapons should therefore be banned for civilian use. “