

Commissioner Cecilia Malmström
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels, BELGIUM

Dear Madam,

My name is _____ and I am a _____ citizen.

Recently I have learnt that European Commission released a document entitled *"Firearms and the internal security of the EU: protecting citizens and disrupting illegal trafficking"*. In my opinion this document mixes legal arms and legitimate arms trade with illegal arms and criminal (black market) arms trade. This is a typical naive misunderstanding of the cause of gun related crime. Law obeying citizens who possess firearms (such as shooters, hunters, collectors etc.) are not involved in gun crimes. Crimes are conducted by CRIMINALS who do not obey any law and do not use legal firearms! Therefore the planned changes would not affect criminals and public security will not be improved. The only certain outcome of the proposed changes will be associated with additional and unnecessary bureaucracy, further restricting basic human rights of sport shooters, hunters, collectors and ordinary citizens. Instead of creating these bureaucratic obstacles and limitations for law obeying citizen, EC should learn from experiences recently gained by Australia, where stricter rules for firearms owners were implemented. The instant effect of this public safety "reform" was a dramatic rise in gun related crimes!

Taking public security seriously EC should listen carefully to Ronald Noble Secretary-General of INTERPOL. Secretary-General Noble publicly stated on TV (21st October 2013) that after deadly al-Shabab attack at the shopping mall in Nairobi (Kenya) the democratic world has really only one solution for public safety - arming civilians. Instead of targets like the Pentagon and World Trade Centre that now have had far more security since 9/11, terrorists are focusing on sites with little security that attract large numbers of people (the so-called soft targets). EU countries can't have armed police forces everywhere, and I do not want to become another soft target. In Europe, instead of restricting rules for legitimate gun owners (sport shooters, hunters, collectors etc.) we need a new legal approach allowing law obeying citizens to buy, possess and concealed carry guns for individual protection. Ordinary citizens have the right to protect themselves and their families 24/7 in case the worst Nairobi scenario should happen and that's why I strongly disagree with the opinions demonstrated in the EC document.

I demand:

- to get all raw statistics data on which EC based its strong anti-gun statements in *"Firearms and the internal security of the EU: protecting citizens and disrupting illegal trafficking"*,
- to get all other documents (paper and electronic) created during work on *"Firearms and the internal security of the EU: protecting citizens and disrupting illegal trafficking"*,
- to be informed about all EC activities concerning *"Firearms and the internal security of the EU: protecting citizens and disrupting illegal trafficking"*.

Best regards,