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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Note from the Commission on Firearms measures adopted on 18
November 2015

Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission on Firearms measures adopted on 18
November 2015.



Brussels,

Firearms measures adopted on 18 November 2015

Following the dramatic events which took place in Paris last week, the Commission has adopted on 18 November 2015 a package of 3 texts:

- A report on the evaluation of Council directive 91/477 of 18 June 1991 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons
- A proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 91/477. This Directive is based on Article 114 TFEU.
- A Commission Regulation establishing common guidelines on deactivation standards and techniques for ensuring that deactivated firearms are rendered irreversibly inoperable

The Commission has been working on these texts for one year but has decided to accelerate their adoption following recent terrorist attack.

The objective of the Proposal to amend Council Directive 91/477 is to **introduce stricter conditions for the acquisition and possession of firearms**. This concern in particular firearms which have been used for recent terrorist attack. It is notably proposed to prohibit the most dangerous firearms (for example Kalashnikov), even when these firearms have been deactivated. It is also proposed notably to forbid the acquisition of the most dangerous firearms by internet and to develop a system of exchange of information between Member States concerning the transfer of firearms and the authorisations granted and on refusals.

The Commission Regulation introduces stricter conditions for the deactivation of firearms. This is particularly important to ensure that deactivated firearms cannot be reactivated and used by criminals.

In the present context, the Commission considers it important to inform Competitiveness Ministers of these recent developments on this internal market related legislation.
