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Basic information	
<p>COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation</p> <p>2022/0288(COD)</p>	Awaiting Council's 1st reading position
<p>Import, export and transit measures for firearms, their essential components and ammunition: implementation of Article 10 of the UN Firearms Protocol. Recast</p>	
<p>Subject</p> <p>6.20.02 Export/import control, trade defence, trade barriers</p> <p>6.20.05 Multilateral and plurilateral economic and trade agreements and relations</p> <p>7.30.12 Control of personal weapons and ammunitions</p> <p>7.30.30 Action to combat crime</p>	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 <a href="#">International Trade</a>	 <a href="#">LANGE Bernd</a>	30/11/2022
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 <a href="#">ASIMAKOPOULOU Anna-Michelle</a>	
		 <a href="#">PAET Urmas</a>	
		 <a href="#">GREGOROVÁ Markéta</a>	
		 <a href="#">LANCINI Danilo Oscar</a>	
		 <a href="#">BERLATO Sergio</a>	
		 <a href="#">MAUREL Emmanuel</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
 <a href="#">Foreign Affairs</a>	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
 <a href="#">Budgets</a>	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
 <a href="#">Internal Market and Consumer Protection</a>	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
 <a href="#">Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs</a> (Associated committee)		22/03/2023	
	 <a href="#">RADEV Emil</a>		

Committee for opinion on the recast technique

Rapporteur for opinion

Appointed

JURI [Legal Affairs](#)

01/07/2023

[ADAMOWICZ  
Magdalena](#)Council of the European Union  
European Commission

Commission DG

Commissioner

[Migration and Home Affairs](#)

JOHANSSON Ylva

## Key events

27/10/2022	Legislative proposal published	<a href="#">COM(2022)0480</a>	Summary
09/11/2022	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
16/03/2023	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
24/10/2023	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
24/10/2023	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
30/10/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	<a href="#">A9-0312/2023</a>	Summary
08/11/2023	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 71)		
09/11/2023	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 71)		
20/03/2024	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	<a href="#">PE759.983</a> GEDA/A/(2024)001606	
23/04/2024	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	<a href="#">T9-0302/2024</a>	

## Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/0288(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Recast
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 57; Rules of Procedure EP 110; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 033; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 207
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting Council's 1st reading position
Committee dossier	INTA/9/10506

## Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		<a href="#">COM(2022)0480</a>	27/10/2022	EC	Summary
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Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2022)0330	27/10/2022	EC	
Document attached to the procedure		SWD(2022)0298	27/10/2022	EC	
Document attached to the procedure		SWD(2022)0299	27/10/2022	EC	
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE748.984</a>	05/06/2023	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE751.636</a>	07/07/2023	EP	
Specific opinion	JURI	<a href="#">PE752.959</a>	11/09/2023	EP	
Committee opinion	LIBE	<a href="#">PE749.313</a>	21/09/2023	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A9-0312/2023</a>	30/10/2023	EP	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement		GEDA/A/(2024)001606	18/03/2024	CSL	
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		<a href="#">PE759.983</a>	20/03/2024	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">T9-0302/2024</a>	23/04/2024	EP	

## Import, export and transit measures for firearms, their essential components and ammunition: implementation of Article 10 of the UN Firearms Protocol. Recast

**PURPOSE:** to update EU rules on the import, export and transit of firearms for civilian use.

**PROPOSED ACT:** Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

**ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:** the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

**BACKGROUND:** it is estimated that 35 million illicit firearms were owned by civilians in the EU in 2017 (56% of the estimated total of firearms). According to those estimates, illicit firearms outnumber legally-held firearms in 12 EU Member States.

The 2021 Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment, published by the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), pointed out that illegal firearms originate from within the EU but also from weapon stocks outside the EU. Trafficking of firearms into the EU from post-conflict countries is one of the main supply chains. Legacy weapons from the armed conflicts in the Western Balkans are the largest source for cross-border trafficking of firearms into the EU.

The proposal aims at combating and preventing firearms trafficking into and from the EU, including by addressing the risks at import and at export. At import, the two main risks are linked to the circumvention of unclear rules that enable the import of semi-finished firearms and components. These semi-finished firearms and components can be used to manufacture firearms at home, which are not correctly marked and registered. Furthermore, alarm and signal weapons that are convertible into lethal firearms are used all over the EU in criminal contexts.

At export, the main risk lies in the diversion of civilian firearms shipped to a non-EU country and being re-exported to countries subject to arms embargoes or sold to criminals and armed forces due to lack of controls and supervision before and after the export process.

This proposal also reflects the priorities of the Commission's EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime, which identifies firearms as a key enabler of the increasing violence by criminal groups. In addition, this proposal follows-up on the implementation of the 2020-2025 EU Action Plan on firearms trafficking.

**CONTENT:** the proposed Regulation lays down rules governing import and export authorisation, and import, export and transit measures for firearms, their essential components, ammunition and alarm and signal weapons for the purpose of implementing Article 10 of the United Nations Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.

This proposal aims to:

- enable coordinated controls between Member States and to ensure the traceability of firearms. Notably, the proposal provides for the proper recording of firearms-related information, responds to the need of improving the work of customs authorities in detection of illicit firearms, their components and ammunition, and limits the import of semi-finished firearms and essential components to arms dealers and brokers only, which is a key novelty;
- clarify the role of the licencing authorities. The proposal also aims to improve cooperation between law enforcement authorities (including customs) and licensing authorities, in both import and export, in order to improve the traceability of firearms, their components and ammunition;
- improve the systematic data collection on international movements of firearms for civilian use, as well as data on seized firearms. The proposal focuses on receiving annual data by Member States on the number of authorisations and refusals for authorisation as well as the

quantities and values of civilian firearms imports and exports, by origin and destination;

- ensure a level playing field and to reduce the administrative burden placed on economic operators and firearms owners by creating a clear legal framework, focusing on digitalisation of procedures, and increasing the cooperation between customs and licensing authorities to facilitate the import, export and transit procedures.

State-to-State (i.e. government-to-government) transactions as well as direct sales to the armed forces, the police or public authorities will remain excluded from the scope of this initiative.

The updated rules will include:

- clear and common procedures for the import, export and transit of firearms for civilian use, their essential components, ammunitions and alarm and signal weapons;
- simplified import and export procedures for hunters, sport shooters and exhibitors;
- a new EU electronic licensing system for firearms manufacturers and dealers to apply for import and export authorisation, replacing the diverse, mostly paper-based national systems;
- strict technical standards for alarm and signal weapons, which are devices manufactured to only be able to fire blank, tear gas or irritant ammunition;
- stricter rules on semi-finished firearms components;
- an end-user certificate for the more dangerous firearms;
- strict checks on refusals to grant import or export authorisations.

## Import, export and transit measures for firearms, their essential components and ammunition: implementation of Article 10 of the UN Firearms Protocol. Recast

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The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Bernd LANGE (S&D, DE) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on import, export and transit measures for firearms, their essential components and ammunition, implementing Article 10 of the United Nations Protocol against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UN Firearms Protocol) (recast).

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the proposal as follows:

### Post-shipment checks

The Commission and competent authorities granting the export authorisation should carry out regular post-shipment checks, not only in case of suspicion but also randomly to ensure that the exported firearms, their essential components and ammunition are in line with the commitments made in the export certificate as set out in Annex IV.

### Procedures at import and export

The amended text stressed that customs authorities should suspend the import of the goods for the customs procedure concerned, if they have certain reasonable doubts and in such a case, they should inform immediately, through electronic means the competent national authority, which should take the decision on the treatment of the goods. If the national competent authority does not reply to the customs authority within 20 working days (as opposed to 10 working days proposed by the Commission), then the customs authority should release the goods without delay.

### Results of controls

Where customs authorities discover an illicit shipment of firearms, their components, ammunition or alarm and signal weapons, they should without delay and no later than two working days from that discovery inform the competent authority in the country of the customs authority thereof.

### Statistics

To increase transparency, Member States should submit to the Commission via suitable confidential means, each year by 31 July, their national annual data for the preceding year on the number of authorisations and refusals and the reasons thereof, the quantities and values of actual imports and exports of firearms, their essential components and ammunition, by category and sub-category as listed in Annex I, by origin and by destination, the quantity and results of post-shipment checks at Member State level, the quantity and results of undertaken enforcement actions at Member State level.

### Electronic licensing system

Members stressed that the Commission should without delay establish and maintain an electronic licensing system for import and export authorisations and decisions. Member States should take all necessary measures to speed up the implementation of the electronic licensing system.

### Export certificate

The export certificate is to include at least the following information: (i) details of the importer including the signature, name and title of the importer; (ii) the date of issue of the export certificate; (iii) if applicable, a unique identifying number or contract number relating to the export certificate.

The Commission should be empowered to adopt delegated acts to establish a uniform export certificate.

### Penalties

The report stressed that Member States should lay down the rules on penalties applicable to infringements of this Regulation. The penalties provided for should be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. Penalties for infringements of this Regulation may be linked to the global annual revenue of the undertaking concerned.

Annual implementation report

The Commission should, in consultation with the Firearms Imports and Exports Coordination Group, submit an annual report on the implementation and enforcement of this regulation. That annual report should be public. It should include information about the number of authorisations and refusals, the quantities and values of actual imports and exports of firearms, their essential components and ammunition, by category and sub-category as listed in Annex I, by origin and by destination at Union and at Member States level. It should also inform about penalties applied by the Member States and assess their effectiveness.

Transparency				
ASIMAKOPOULOU Anna-Michelle	Shadow rapporteur	INTA	11/01/2024	Associazione Nazionale Produttori Armi e Munizioni Sportive e Civili
ASIMAKOPOULOU Anna-Michelle	Shadow rapporteur	INTA	20/09/2023	Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation of the EU
LANGE Bernd	Rapporteur	INTA	26/06/2023	Verband Deutscher Büchsenmacher und Waffenfachhändler
LANCINI Danilo Oscar	Shadow rapporteur	INTA	23/01/2023	ANPAM