

**Question for written answer E-002008/2026  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Nikos Pappas (The Left)**

**Subject:** Strengthening the EU framework to prevent and combat illegal possession of weapons in the EU

The illegal possession of firearms remains a critical threat to the internal security of the EU. Recent instances of armed violence in Greece (for example in Crete and in Kallithea, Attica), as well as the increase in crime in countries such as Belgium and Sweden, highlight the cross-border dimension of the phenomenon.

The current legal framework is laid down in Directive (EU) 2021/555, which sets out (in Articles 4 to 10) marking and registration obligations as well as tracing mechanisms (Articles 13 to 15). At the same time, the new Regulation (EU) 2024/1392 strengthens checks on imports and transit, with a view to optimising the security of citizens.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it assess Member States' compliance with the marking and information-sharing obligations laid down in Directive 2021/555 regarding the effective tracing of weapons?
2. What data is available from Europol on illicit arms trafficking routes and their degree of connection to organised crime within the internal market?
3. Does the Commission intend to further strengthen operational cooperation through the national operational centres (Firearms Focal Points) and the use of new technologies for darknet market surveillance?

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