

Question for written answer E-003982/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Jeroen Lenaers (PPE)

Subject: Cross-border trade in alarm and gas pistols by minors – the need for a European approach

The Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security and the Dutch police have noted that an increasing number of minors are trading in firearms and converting alarm and gas pistols¹. Differences in firearms legislation enable minors to purchase (parts of) firearms via online shops or from neighbouring countries, convert them in the Netherlands and resell them. Alarm and gas pistols are legally available in some Member States, whilst possession without a licence is prohibited in the Netherlands. 40 % of the firearms confiscated by the police are converted alarm and gas pistols. Minors are being lured into the arms trade via social media, driven by the prospect of financial gain.

The following questions arise for the Commission in this regard:

1. Is the Commission aware of these developments, and how does it assess the risks to minors and European security?
2. Does the Commission share the view that this cross-border trade and the differences in national legislation demonstrate the need for a European approach and more effective enforcement with regard to the possession, conversion and sale of weapons, alarm and gas pistols, which are not classified as firearms under Directive (EU) 2021/555²?
3. Is the Commission prepared to study the possibility of harmonising differences in national legislation concerning the purchase, conversion and resale of firearms, firearm components, and alarm and gas pistols?

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¹ ‘Young people are flocking to the firearms trade: On TikTok, it sometimes seems perfectly normal to own a gun’, De Telegraaf, 6 September 2026, https://www.telegraaf.nl/misdaad/jongeren-storten-zich-op-vuurwapenhandel-op-tiktok-lijkt-het-soms-heel-normaal-om-een-wapen-te-hebben/161021864.html?utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=share.

² Directive (EU) 2021/555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons (codification), OJ L 115, 6.4.2021, pp. 1–25 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2021/555/oj?locale=en>.