

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002699/24  
to the Commission  
Jorge Buxadé Villalba (PPE)  
(29 November 2024)**

*Subject:* Risk to hunting tourism

Hunting tourism is an activity that has a positive economic impact in many Member States. Article 11 of the proposal for a regulation on the import, export and transit of firearms sets out the conditions for temporary admission of weapons by hunters not established in the EU. According to that article, hunters must obtain a ‘national general authorisation’ or a ‘single import authorisation’. For the latter, applicants must submit documents such as ‘the date and the unique reference number of the authorisation, or equivalent, in order to own or possess a firearm’. If a strict interpretation of the regulation were applied, it could prevent hunters from countries with no legal obligation to have a firearms licence from applying for authorisation of that kind, which could have a negative impact on the growth potential of hunting tourism in the EU.

In the light of the above:

1. In the Commission’s view, how will hunters from countries with no firearms licence be able to apply for a single import authorisation?
2. What does it take ‘equivalent documents’ to mean? Could it be replaced by another document, such as a hunting licence or a certificate proving weapon handling knowledge?

Submitted: 29.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission  
(14 February 2025)**

The Commission is aware of the economic importance of hunting tourism. One of the objectives of the recast Regulation on import, export and transit of firearms is to facilitate and decrease the administrative burden for temporary import and re-export of firearms for hunting excursions in the EU.

The full provision of the adopted text <sup>(1)</sup> quoted by the Honourable Member (Article 11(3) point c) reads as follows: *The application for the import authorisation referred to in paragraph 2 shall include the following [...] (c): the date and unique reference number of the authorisation, or equivalent, to own or possess a firearm and of the export authorisation from the third country, or where applicable, proof of the exception from that authorisation.*

The reference to the ‘proof of exception from that authorisation’ acknowledges the fact that some third countries do not require an authorisation for owning a firearm or for exporting a firearm. Hunters from countries with no requirement for a firearms licence can therefore request an authorisation by submitting this proof to the competent authorities.

These rules will be applicable 48 months after the entry into force of the recast Regulation <sup>(2)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L, 2025/41, 22.1.2025.

<sup>(2)</sup> Entry into application will be 12 February 2029.