

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002811/25
to the Commission
Riho Terras (PPE)
(9 July 2025)**

Subject: Unusable stocks following the entry into force of the Commission's proposed legislation on lead ammunition

The EC's proposed legislation on lead ammunition draws a distinction between 'large-calibre' (≥ 5.6 mm) and 'small-calibre' (< 5.6 mm) centrefire bullets for hunting purposes. However, the so-called 'small-calibre' bullets are rare or non-existent in the EU, meaning that practically all lead-based centrefire ammunition for hunting would be subject to a restriction 18 months after the legislation's entry into force.

As lead ammunition cannot simply be discarded or repurposed, mainly on account of its explosive components, after the proposed transitional period of 18 months, producers, sellers and users would be left with significant unusable stocks of lead-based centrefire ammunition.

Could the Commission explain whether appropriate compensation mechanisms have been considered for affected stakeholders, who would suffer financial losses as a result of being left with unusable stocks of lead-based centrefire ammunition after 18 months?

Submitted: 9.7.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(2 September 2025)**

The proposed restriction, if adopted, would ban the use of lead bullets for hunting after 18 months (calibre ≥ 5.6 mm) and 10 years (calibre < 5.6 mm), respectively.

The ban however does not cover the use of the same lead bullets for sports shooting in shooting ranges, or by military and security forces.

This means that, should the restriction be adopted, lead bullets that cannot be used anymore for hunting can still be used for sports shooting or defence purposes and do not need to be disposed of.

The market for lead ammunition is driven by bullets for sport shooting (42 000 tonnes used annually for sports shooting vs only 134 tonnes for hunting).

The amount of lead bullets that would be banned (those used for hunting) are only a small fraction of the amount of lead bullets that can continue being used (those for sports shooting and for military/security uses).

This means that the market demand of lead bullets is expected to remain stable after the restriction or even increase (considering the current increased demand of ammunition for defence purposes).

Consequently, distributors and retailers are unlikely to be left with unsellable stocks of lead bullets and suffer financial losses from the ban on hunting with lead bullets. Moreover, hunters would be able to use their lead bullet stocks in the shooting ranges that they typically use for training.
