

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002008/26
to the Commission
Nikos Pappas (The Left)
(13 May 2026)**

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?

Submitted: 13.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(26 June 2026)**

The Commission has assessed the transposition of Directive (EU) 2021/555 ⁽¹⁾ into national legislation and issued 26 infringements for incorrect transposition ⁽²⁾.

These procedures cover a broad range of transposition issues, including the incorrect transposition of the rules on marking and the exchange of information. The details of the ongoing infringements cannot be shared before the end of the procedures.

The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) has established an Analysis Project Weapons and Explosives that focuses on identifying major threats, supply chains, sources and end-users of weapons ⁽³⁾.

It supports Member States with operational, analytical and forensic assistance, as well as the identification and tracing of weapons. Moreover, the Commission adopted a proposal for a directive on combating firearms trafficking and other firearms-related offences on 26 February 2026 ⁽⁴⁾.

Its objectives cover the registration by Member States of all seized firearms using a minimum dataset and to share this data with Europol. This data collection will improve the identification of trends, new *modi operandi*, and trafficking routes.

The proposal aims to set up a National Firearms Focal Point in each Member State. The proposal also focuses on the prevention of disseminating blueprints which can be used as guidebooks to 3D print firearms, essential components and ammunition.

Criminalising the circulation of blueprints makes it illegal content under the Digital Services Act ⁽⁵⁾. This could be used to tackle the dissemination, including on the darknet.

⁽¹⁾ 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.

⁽²⁾ The Commission has opened infringement procedures against Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, and Sweden; see <https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=leadDg&infringementType=NCF&activeCase=true&decisionCategory=LFN&legalBasis=32021L0555>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas/trade-in-illegal-firearms-and-explosives>.

⁽⁴⁾ COM (2026) 102 final.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Service Act), OJ L 277, 27.10.2022.