

Legislative Procedure explained



by [FIREARMS UNITED](#)

Commission's proposal

Commission forwarded one week after the attack in Paris in November 2015 the final proposal simultaneously to :

European Parliament (EP)

Council

National Parliaments

As the Council considered it appropriate, it consulted also:

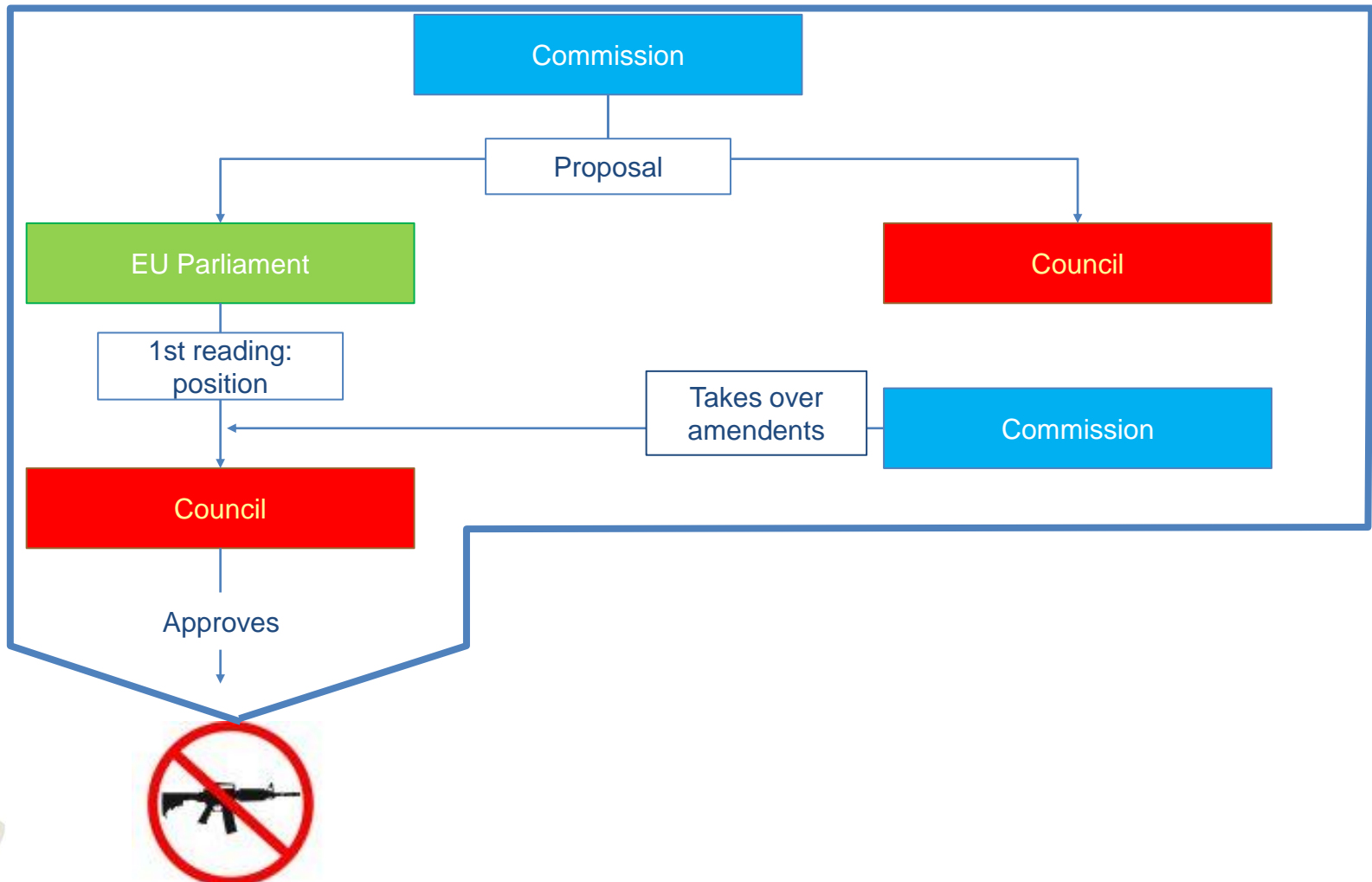
Committee of the Regions (COR or Coreper)

Economic and Social Committee (ESSC)



Read more: [Ordinary legislative procedure](#)

Commission wanted a fast adoption of its Proposal within 3 months



Impact of Commission's Proposal

Actually **undermines national security** by creating a vacuum in countries that rely on active reserve forces;

Endangers law-abiding citizens by banning firearms, blank firing guns and live-saving firearms kept for self-defense and protection;

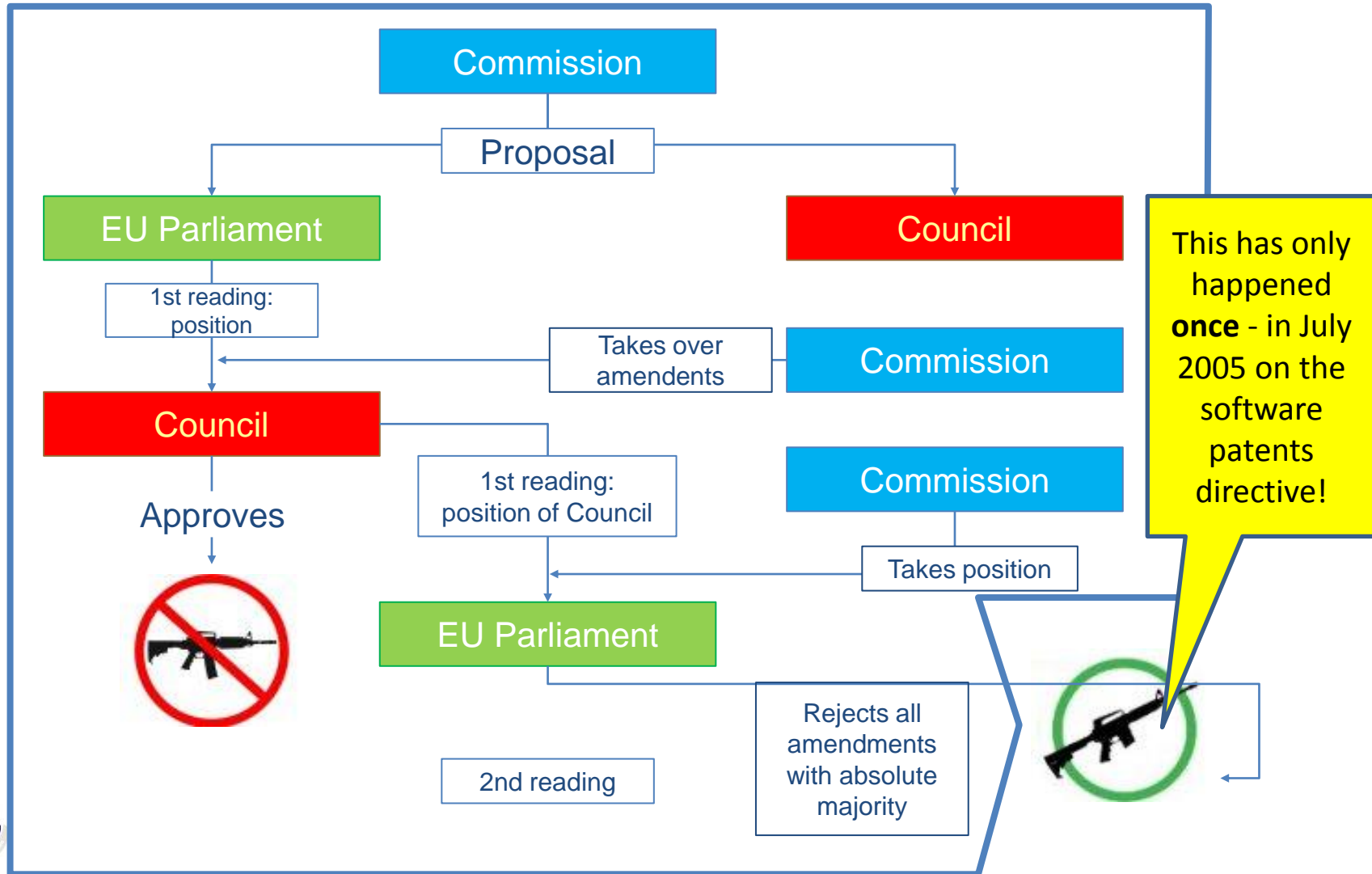
Eradicates a number of sport shooting disciplines and other legal pastimes;

Destroys the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of people who earn an honest living in the legal arms trade;



Read more: [Open Letter to Members of European Parliament](#)

FIREARMS UNITED wants rejection of Proposal and 3 new guidelines



The Position of the FIREARMS UNITED

The current Firearms Directive is an effective tool for security and does not unnecessarily obstruct legal activity. EU Member States that faithfully transposed the Directive into their national laws and applied proper enforcement enjoy positive results. What is necessary is further collaboration between Member States to learn from those that successfully applied the Directive effectively and to implement measures that harmonise the procedures for better control. That is the way to earn citizens' trust and cooperation in keeping Europe safe.

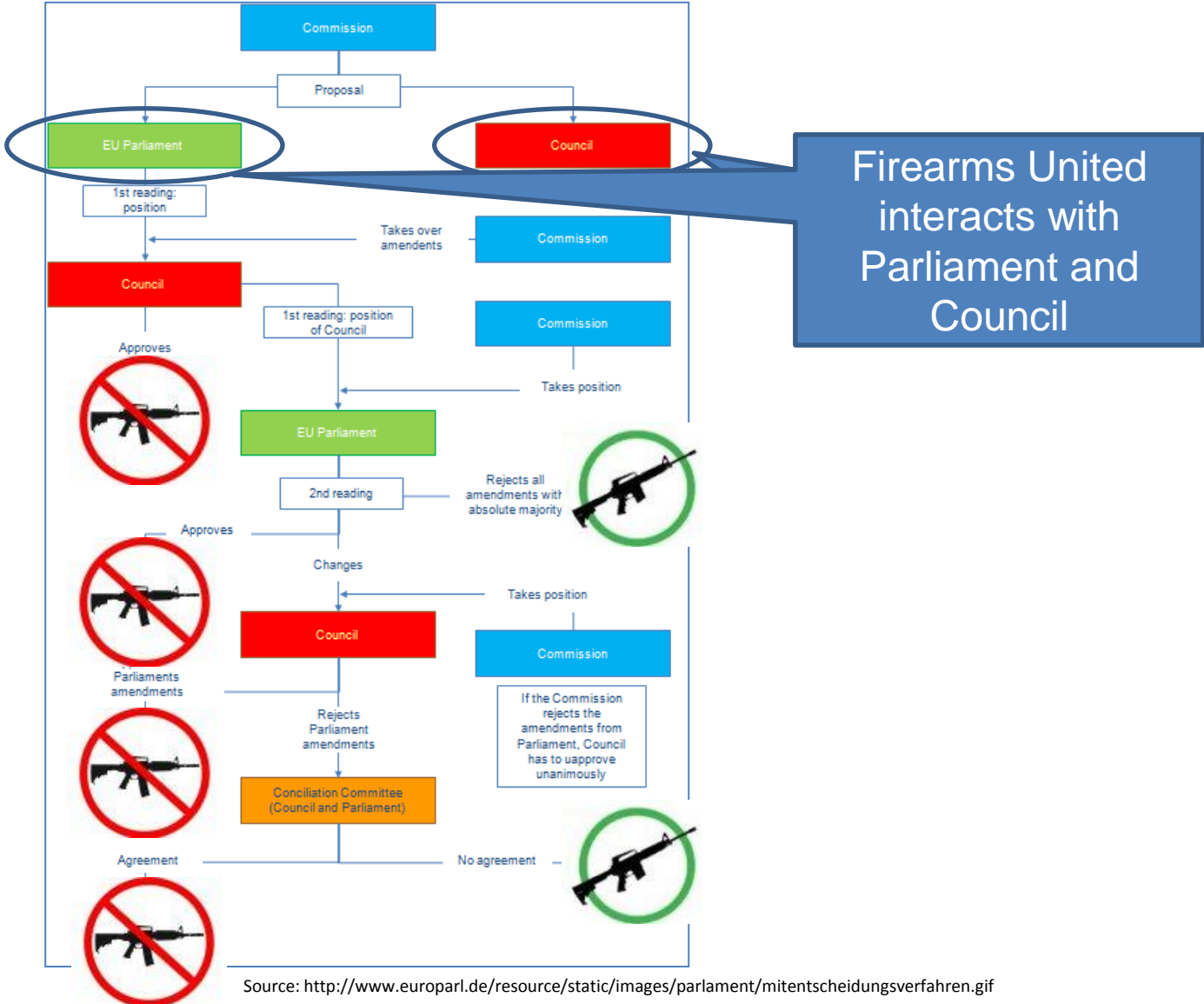
We approve guidelines for harmonising standards and rules for deactivation, blank weapons and markings.

We disapprove the whole “Proposal for a Directive amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC”



Read more: [Open Letter to Members of European Parliament](#)

Legislative Procedure



Source: <http://www.europarl.de/resource/static/images/parlament/mitentscheidungsverfahren.gif>



Firearms Directive in the European Parliament

The parliamentary committee
responsible is IMCO
(Internal Market and
Consumer Protection)

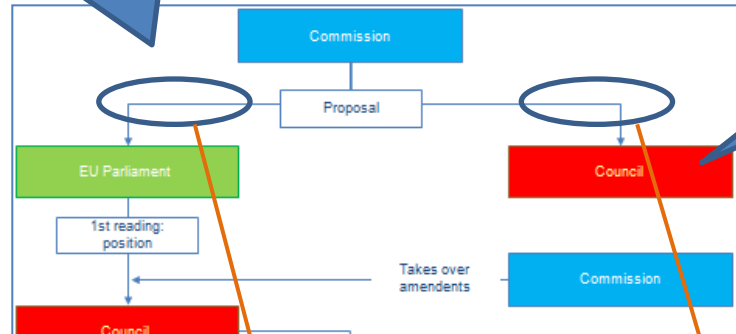
Responsible
committee can
request the opinion of
JURI (Legal Affairs)

The **associated**
committee is **LIBE**
(Civil Liberties, Justice
and Home Affairs)



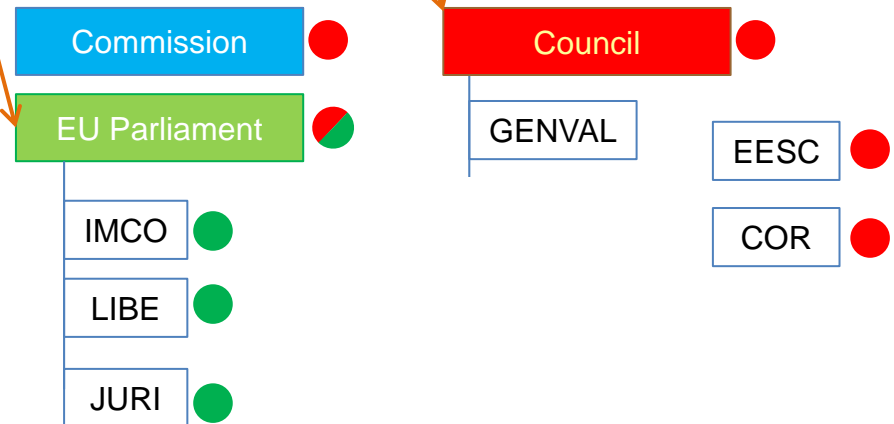
The process is now here!
In the preparatory phase
prior to Parliament

Council's "counter proposal"
is even stricter than the initial
Commission's proposal



Zooming on the stakeholders this phase

- = in EU favor = against ban on firearms
- = in EU favor = pro-ban on firearms
- = half / half



Story so far: Small win in LIBE, hope in JURI



LIBE rejected on 19th of May most bans and stricter rules, unfortunately not with an overwhelming majority but very moderately.

Read more: [#EUgunban: finally a victory at LIBE](#)



JURI has to consider if the proposal respects the principles of proportionality and subsidiarity Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union.

Read more: [FIREARMS UNITED's Answer to JURI](#)



Preparatory work



The European Parliament is circled by five bodies of whom the **majority wants to ban some thing.**

Even EP wants stricter rules for legal access.



Powerful Opponents



The *Working Party on General Matters including Evaluation* ([GENVAL](#)) which is made up of experts in the subject from each Member State. This is the fundamental platform for discussion;



The next level up is the *Committee of Permanent Representatives* ([COREPER](#)) which consists of diplomats from each Member States' permanent offices in Brussels who transmit their respective governments' position;



The third and highest level is the [Council of Ministers](#) made up of Member States' Ministers of Interior and Justice, sometimes even Prime Ministers, who are the decision-makers



What Council wants

ban on handguns capable of firing more than 21 rounds without reloading;

ban on rifles capable of firing more than 11 rounds without reloading;

ban on long firearms that can be reduced, by means of a **folding, telescopic or easily removable stock**, to a length of less than 60 cm;

limitation on reasons for which permits for Category A firearms may be issued;

prohibition on collectors to acquire and keep Category A firearms, even if historic and kept under strict conditions.



Read more: [How the European Council works on gun bans](#)

It is a long, long way which lays ahead of us!



Commission

EP = EU Parliament

Council

Conciliation Committee



Our Aim

If a legislative proposal is rejected at any stage of the procedure, or the **Parliament and Council cannot reach a compromise**, the proposal is not adopted and the procedure is ended. A new procedure can start only with a new proposal from the Commission.

