Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the President and CEO of Firearms United Global, I would like to take few minutes of your time to comment upon the current situation with the EU Gun Ban, aka 91/477/EEC.

The current position of the EC is very weak. Through the actions of legal gun owners, the EC is losing grounds and pushes with all their might to get their way, without any supporting evidence. The EC goes as far as to put an emotional blackmail on the Parliament and the Council stating that if they do not approve everything the EC wants, they are putting security of citizens at risk. The last time I checked I am a citizen too. And I do not feel an inch safer when the EC wants to go after me and other law abiding citizens, while leaving criminals, gun traffickers and illegal guns alone. I bet that you feel the same.

At the same time the EC is putting their propaganda arm at work. In the latest article by Mrs. Monika Donimirska at SatPRNews<sup>1</sup>, the said journalist is making a funny story about good EC and bad Parliament, and even worse pro-gun organisations. Mrs. Donimirska is putting in one paragraph, a woeful incident performed allegedly by an unknown person, with Firearms United. Well, for the record, we had nothing to do with this incident. We prefer to talk and use arguments to preach our cause. Sadly, the EC is not willing to discuss, as Commissioner Bieńkowska ignored each invite for a meeting. And yes, we were present at each hearing on the Directive, and we will continue to do so, as this our civil liberty. If the EC is surprised by the fact, I wonder how would Members of the EC react, if we would be pressing for laws requiring them to drive cars with 0.8 litre engines only, with a tank limited to 15 litres and to drive them on specially certified road only. Which is akin to their proposal on firearms, which they do not totally understand.

Also, throughout the whole proceedings of the Directive, the EC was using exaggerated data, which has been proved by the research done for and by EU funding. Check for yourself:

## http://fireproject.eu/explore/#/shootings

Have we been lobbying for our rights? Yes. Will we continue to do so? Yes. Is it unpleasant for the EC? Yes. And it will continue to be so, unless the EC will concentrate to curb illegal gun trafficking and start treating us as partners, not enemies.

Tomasz W. Stepien Firearms United GLOBAL President & CEO <u>Tomasz.stepien@firearms-united.com</u> +48 660 792 796

<sup>1</sup> http://satprnews.com/2016/12/08/firearms-directive-dispute-continues-no-compromise-in-sight/