



## ***Project FIRE***

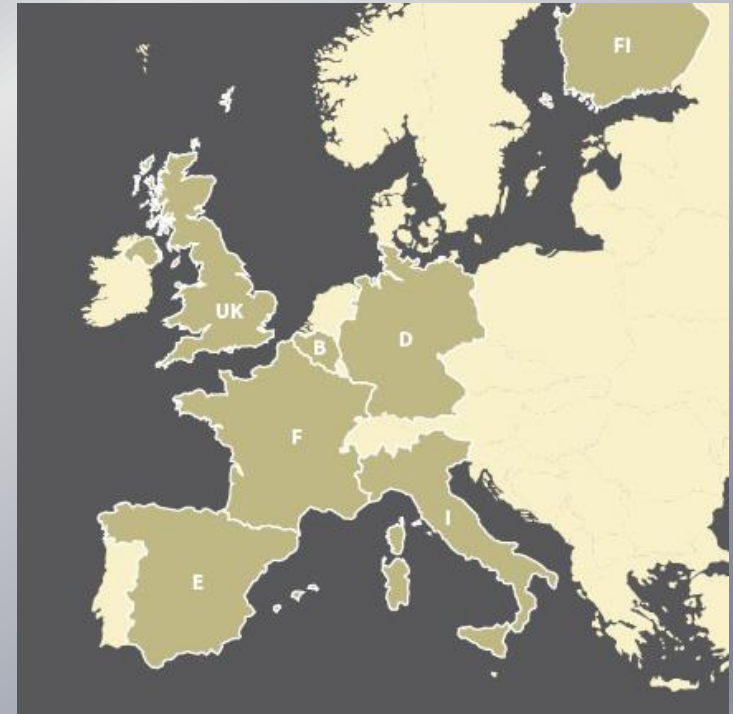
***Fighting illicit firearms trafficking routes and  
actors at EU level  
THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE INDUSTRY***

# INSTITUT EUROPÉEN DES ARMES DE CHASSE ET DE SPORT (IEACS)

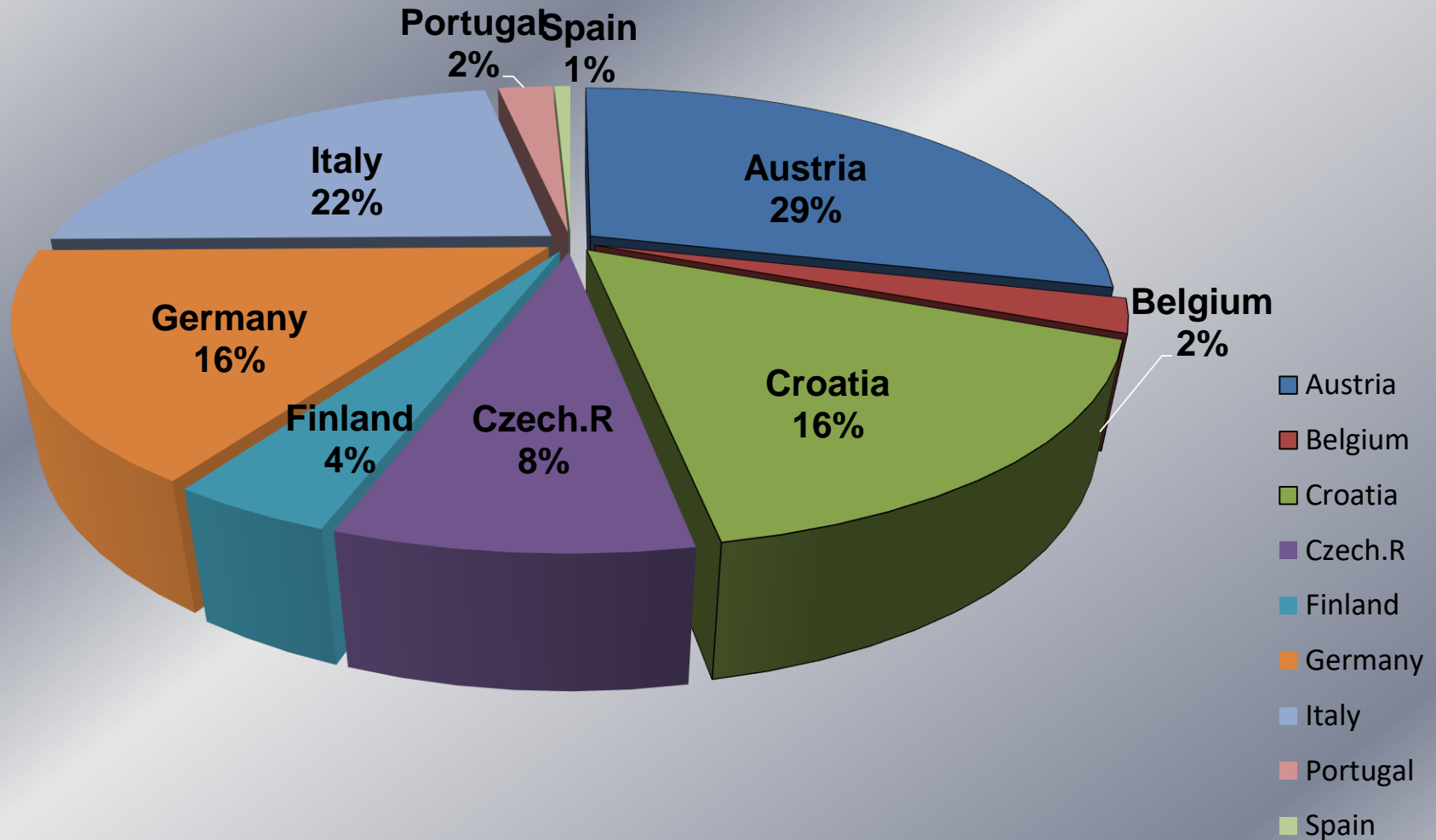
**IEACS** is a non-profit International Association with Scientific aim founded in 1977 and registered under the Belgian law in 1980.

IEACS was recognized by the European Authorities as a spokesperson for the sporting firearms industry.

IEACS has established during the years solid relations with the European institution such as European Parliament, European Commission and the Council.



# 2014 - ESTIMATE OF THE EUROPEAN PRODUCTION OF CIVILIAN FIREARMS



# THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE SPORTING FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION INDUSTRY IN EUROPE

1. The hunting and shooting sports market generates in excess of **€ 18 billion** of economic activity annually. This activity supports more than **580.000 jobs**
2. The EU sporting firearms activities represent **over 12 million law-abiding and responsible citizens**
3. The overall impact on the economy of hunting and shooting sports activity would be in excess of **€ 40 billion, annually**
4. There are more than **1.800 manufacturers, 200 distributors and 14.000 retailers in Europe** whose business is totally or largely dependent on the hunting or recreational shooting market



# EUROPEAN LEGISLATION

- **1991** Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons
- **2008** Directive 2008/51/EC of the European Parliament and of the council amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC
- **2012** Regulation 258/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council implementing art. 10 of the United Nations Firearms Protocol (UNFP)

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English edition

Legislation

**United Nations Firearms Protocol (UNFP)  
is fully implemented in the EU legislation  
but ...**

**... HAVE ALL MEMBER STATES  
IMPLEMENTED THE ABOVE  
LEGISLATION?**



# THE EU LEGISLATION ON MANUFACTURING AND ON SALES

- Directive 91/477/CEE, as amended by directive 2008/51/CE, **harmonises** the regulations of Member States on the acquisition and possession of civilian firearms
- Firearms placed on the EU market shall be **marked with all the identification data** (manufacturer, country or place of manufacture, serial number and year of manufacture) and shall be registered
- Professional operators (manufactures, importers, dealers, repairers and brokers) shall have **government license**, which is issued only after verification of personal integrity and professional ability of the applicant



# THE REGULATION IN EU ON SALES

- All professional operators shall **keep records** of the data of all of the firearms in their possession
- Such **data must be stored** even after the conclusion of their activities
- Firearms must be **linked to their owners** through public records
- Following the full implementation of Directive 91/477/EEC, it is **no longer possible to hold long firearms for hunting without a specific license** in any EU country. This has never been possible for short firearms as pistols and revolvers





# THE REGULATION IN EU ON SALES

**It is prohibited to EU citizens to possess Category A firearms and ammunition:**

*Launchers and other devices with explosive effect for military use; Fully automatic firearms; Firearms disguised as other objects; Ammunition with penetrating, explosive or incendiary projectiles, as well as projectiles for such ammunition; Ammunition for pistols and revolvers with expanding bullets, and their projectiles, except those for hunting or for target shooting, for individuals entitled to use them*



# THE REGULATION IN EU ON SALES

- Member States **have to verify** that firearms possessors are not likely to be a danger to themselves, to public order nor to public security
- In all EU Member States, **the license is withdrawn** upon completion of at least an intentional crime, which, in most cases, is followed by the confiscation of the firearm



# THE REGULATION IN EU ON SALES

- In general, we can say that the **legislation in force** in EU Member States on the sale and possession of civilian firearms **is complete, tailored according to security requirements and rather restrictive**



- After the adoption of Regulation (EU) No 258/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2012 on the export of firearms, **it seems that Europe has the most modern and efficient legislation on civilian firearms**

# THE SUCCESS OF THE FIREARMS TRACING AND PUBLIC SECURITY DEPENDS ON:

1 – a balanced European regulation

2 – a good implementation of it at National level

3 – more important is the collaboration between the authorities and stakeholders involved in the firearms chain.



# ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN EU

1. Border controls
2. Control of the territory
3. Exchange of information between Members States and better coordination between intelligence services
4. Harmonized system of penalties related to illicit trafficking of firearms so that it is prosecuted in the same way in all member states





# ILLICIT TRAFFICKING RELATED TO THE FIREARMS DIRECTIVE

1. **Uniformity of implementation** of directive 91/477/EEC
2. **Simplify and clarify** the legislation in order to ensure that is well implemented in all Member States and avoid grey areas
3. In order not to ban but to **find solutions**: study the best practices in place in the various Member States (i.e. signal/alarm devices; deactivation; demilitarization) to fight illicit trafficking
4. Mandatory to have a EU or national body able to **certify firearms based on common standards**



# CONCLUSIONS

Authorities should identify the important issues to focus on, regulate and address the relevant targets that **in no way are represented by the hunting and sport shooting firearms nor by the legal circuit of manufacturing and distribution.**



INSTITUT  
EUROPEEN  
DES ARMES DE CHASSE  
ET DE SPORT

IEACS

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE A BUT SCIENTIFIQUE

**THANK YOU!**

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