

1798 Make opposition to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) a Union campaign

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Union notes:

1. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership is currently being negotiated, mostly in secret, between the EU and USA.
2. It is likely that the Partnership, if agreed, would create a standard to emulate for future bilateral trade deals on a global scale.
3. The negotiation process is negotiating the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with countries one by one and is purposefully bypassing the World Trade Organisation which, although not faultless, enables each country to participate in negotiations.
4. The Investor-State Dispute Settlement clause would give corporations the right to sue governments, should a government make a policy decision which infringes upon their 'right' to make profits. The procedure would enormously favour corporations, with the state paying the cost of the case regardless of whether it wins, and negotiation procedures being undertaken in private by a small group of lawyers without judge or jury. There would be little to no requirements for those involved to release any details of the case to the public or state besides the decided settlement, and taxpayers would have to pay the settlement cost.
4. The growth predicted by proponents of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership is unlikely to happen. There is a precedent of official claims about the growth benefits of trade deals being inaccurate; furthermore, the oft-quoted £100 billion benefit that TTIP could bring to the EU rests on the assumption that 50% of all public procurement will be liberalised.
5. TTIP would bring about the privatisation of public services across Europe, including water, health and education, opening them up to American private companies. It is likely to force further deregulation and liberalisation of the NHS.
6. TTIP would consolidate current levels of privatisation, by allowing corporations to sue governments which attempt to renationalise public services.

7. A University and College Union report found that the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership would threaten public education in the UK through its encouragement of the entry of private American education companies.
8. Central to TTIP is its proposals for regulatory harmonising. Differences in regulations between the American and European market would be eradicated, through decreasing regulations. For instance, European market regulations operate on the precautionary principle, which means that any new technology or product has to be proven to cause no harm before being used; however, if regulatory harmonising occurred, governments would be responsible for proving that a product is unsafe, to mirror the current system in the USA.
9. Many environmental concerns are raised by TTIP. At present, a key demand of the negotiations is that the EU abandons the Fuel Quality Directive which prevents the import of oil from Canada's tar sands (one of the most environmentally devastating activities on the planet) into Europe.
10. Less economically developed countries would suffer if TTIP were agreed. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership would place enormous pressure on countries in the global south to comply, in order to avoid loss of trade with the USA and EU. The business lobby openly acknowledges that a key benefit of TTIP will be the potential to coerce poorer countries into deregulating their markets and imposing neoliberal economic policies.

Union believes:

1. That democracy, human rights, and sustainability are essential to a fair and equal society.
2. That the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership directly threatens all of the above due to its Investor-State Dispute Settlement clause, lack of transparency in ongoing negotiations, favouring of corporate interests at the expense of the common good and basis in neoliberal ideology.
3. That healthcare and education should not be marketised, and should be free and accessible to all. Any attempts to further marketise either of these should be opposed and resisted.
4. That corporations should not enjoy legal rights beyond those of people, and that their activities should be restricted further, rather than deregulated further. Corporations must operate on principles of social and environmental responsibility.

5. That development must be sustainable, and that sustainable development by its nature must be inclusive, humane and attentive to the needs of all rather than a select few. Trade agreements should be made on this basis.

Union resolves:

1. To create a Union campaign called 'No to TTIP', which will educate on the terms and impacts of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, and campaign against its implementation.
2. To always campaign against any such trade deals which would infringe on human rights and allow for such gross abuse of power by corporations.
3. To campaign and support any campaigns which raise awareness of TTIP and stand against its implementation.
4. To continue to support campaigns against TTIP at a local and national level as appropriate, for instance offering free transportation to demonstrations.