

10 Reasons To Be Concerned About TTIP

1. A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

If agreed, TTIP would give corporations the power to sue governments over decisions that could harm their future profits, undermining democratic decision-making made in the public interest.

2. A THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES

TTIP will create new markets in public services e.g. health and education, leading to greater liberalisation and privatisation. It would also make it very difficult to bring these services, as well as our energy and water, back under public control or renationalise them.

3. A THREAT TO FOOD SAFETY

Through a harmonisation of food safety regulation, EU food safety standards would be lowered to US levels. This would remove EU restrictions on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), pesticides and hormone-treated beef.

4. A THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

TTIP would see EU environmental regulations being harmonised and reduced to US levels, allowing a US-style fracking boom in the UK.

5. A THREAT TO THE CLIMATE

With strong investor rights, TTIP would allow corporations to sue governments for bringing in new policies to leave fossil fuels in the ground.

6. A THREAT TO WORKERS' RIGHTS

Workers' rights could be reduced to US standards and businesses could relocate to US states and EU countries with the lowest wages and labour standards.

7. A THREAT TO PERSONAL PRIVACY

Leaked documents indicate that TTIP could be used to reintroduce central elements of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), which was rejected by the European parliament after popular protest. This could force internet providers to spy on their customers and threaten the freedom of the internet.

8. A THREAT TO FINANCIAL CONTROL

TTIP is set to remove many of the new financial regulations (such as banking safeguards) that have been introduced since 2008 to prevent a future financial crash.

9. NEGOTIATED IN SECRECY

While corporate lobbyists are playing an integral role in negotiations, the public have been shut out. All negotiators must sign nondisclosure agreements. There is no access to the draft text of TTIP, even for MPs.

10. A DANGEROUS BLUEPRINT FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD

If TTIP is agreed, countries in the global south will come under huge pressure to apply TTIP standards to avoid losing trade. The business lobby are upfront about their aim of creating 'global convergence toward EU-US standards'. This would see free trade policies forced on poorer countries, that they have had no part in negotiating.