

Flooding, climate change and power grabs by fossil fuel interests – TTIP, CETA

The need for **climate ‘red lines’** that must not be crossed

If fossil fuel interests such as big oil companies and their supporters get their way we are likely to see an increased likelihood of flooding¹ and other extreme weather events. They are using their influence to put massive pressure on the EU, USA and Canada to ensure that "trade deals" will effectively lock in place the power of fossil fuel interests and thus increased global warming. Local groups concerned with tackling climate change are giving you opportunities to use “people power” to stop them². Here are key issues and how we must tackle them.

We must persuade our [MPs and MEPs](#) to commit themselves and their Parties to “red lines” that they will not agree to these “deals” if they contain the following climate-threatening proposals. The deals I’ll focus on here are TTIP – between the EU and US, and CETA – its EU-Canada equivalent.

Fundamentally, TTIP and CETA would re-inforce an existing legal primacy for trade above climate action³. Part of the EU Commission sadly agrees with maintaining this disastrous order of primacy, as revealed by a leak of their instruction to climate negotiators in Paris last month at COP21⁴.

Secondly, we cannot allow TTIP’s proposed ‘Regulatory Cooperation’ to institutionalize fossil fuel lobbying by giving companies such as Chevron “stakeholder” powers to strangle any proposed climate legislation⁵. Fossil lobbying during the negotiation of TTIP and CETA has already neutralized an important EU directive to try and reduce the carbon intensity of fuels for transport⁶ – a sector with increasing emissions.⁷

Thirdly, TTIP and CETA will give fossil fuel and other transnational companies increased access to their own separate court systems, which will increase their power to sue nations and thus taxpayers for any future profits they might forego as a result of climate or other legislation or policies. Such actions are already much on the increase via existing trade and investment treaties, resulting in billions being claimed from taxpayers.⁸

Over a thousand residents of our constituency signed our petition to our MP and government for the removal of such pro-corporate court systems from both TTIP and CETA. We can’t allow big business to have such powers. Note: Chevron insists on having such strong powers “as a deterrent”!⁹ Would you like fracking companies to be able to sue us, as one is suing Canada using a similar system?

Fourthly EU is insisting that TTIP legally liberalizes trade in fossil fuels¹⁰, with disregard to the carbon intensities of sources being liberalized (such as tar sands, fracked oil and gas), and of any increases in emissions that will be enabled.

The power of fossil fuel lobbying is shown well by the absence of the words ‘fossil fuel’, ‘oil’, and ‘coal’ from the final COP21 Paris agreement on climate¹¹. Thus there is no mention of the need to stop the billions of dollars of fossil fuel subsidies¹², nor that we must leave most fossil fuels in the ground to limit global temperature rise to the agreed goals¹³. This is despite the fact that fossil fuel burning is responsible for well over half of our total carbon emissions¹⁴.

What’s more, oil companies knew of the climate impacts of fossil fuel burning, including on regional weather extremes (and thus flooding) way back in 1977/8, from their own research recently leaked to InsideClimate News¹⁵. However, reminiscent of tobacco companies, they instead decided to invest millions funding “denialism” of their climate impacts¹⁶, and lobbying to suppress climate action.

Please consider who bears responsibility for increasing the likelihood of flooding costs, and deny them legal powers to make such risks much worse in the future. Contact your MP/MEPs: www.writetothem.com

For more on these issues: see references, links and notes on next page, and for other aspects of TTIP & CETA: See web-pages: www.bit.ly/STOP-TTIP-South-Lakes &/or www.facebook.com/StopTTIPSouthLakes/

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Internet url for this pdf: www.dragonfly1.plus.com/Flooding-Climate-FossilFuels-TTIP-CETA.pdf

Short url: www.bit.ly/CLIMATEredlinesTTIPCETA

REFERENCES, LINKS & NOTES

¹ Flooding and climate change – references/links (pdf): www.dragonfly1.plus.com/Flooding&ClimateChange-RefsLinks.pdf

² Facebook page for STOP TTIP South Lakes for local events etc: <https://www.facebook.com/StopTTIPSouthLakes>

³ This legal primacy was even inserted in to the 1992 Rio Earth Summit – Naomi Klein ‘This Changes Everything’ p.77.

⁴ The leak which shows EU Commission’s priority for trade in fossil fuels over climate action: ‘**Trade trumps climate**’ 4dec15 <http://corporateeurope.org/climate-and-energy/2015/12/trade-trumps-climate> & ‘Does trade trump climate?’ by Sam Lowe of FoE - Friends of the Earth <https://www.foe.co.uk/blog/does-trade-trump-climate>

⁵ On Regulatory Cooperation: ‘**You thought ISDS was bad: TTIP’s “regulatory cooperation” is even worse**’ - Glyn Moody in Ars Technica UK <http://arstechnica.co.uk/tech-policy/2016/01/you-thought-isds-was-bad-ttips-regulatory-cooperation-is-even-worse/> 19jan16, and this pdf: ‘**TTIP: A box of tricks for corporate climate criminals**’ http://corporateeurope.org/sites/default/files/attachments/ttip_and_climate_en.pdf

⁶ On the watering down to ineffectiveness of the **Fuel Quality Directive** (FQD): My briefing to Tim Farron MP for his meeting with Dept BIS in 2014 tackles this on p.4, re the Fuel Quality Directive (FQD): <http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/TTIP-CETA-ISDS-briefing-summary-for-Tim-Farron-by-Henry-Adams.pdf> So does my submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee the EAC (Environmental Audit Committee of MPs): see under ‘**The FQD – Fuel Quality Directive** - and how it is hit by “free trade” ideology and oil interests’ <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/environmental-audit-committee/the-transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership/written/17682.html>

Also summarized under reason 5 in Global Justice Now’s ‘**Five reasons TTIP and CETA are terrible for the climate**’ (pdf) - Global Justice Now’ http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/resources/ttip_and_cop_briefing_web_0.pdf

⁷ Transport emissions are rising e.g. in on-land transport, much by diesel fuel (refs by T&E Transport & Environment). Also aviation & shipping: Alice Bows-Larkin: “...has led to the CO₂ from international transport growing at a higher rate than the average rate from all other sectors...” <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14693062.2014.965125>

⁸ On **separate corporate court systems** ISDS/ICS (pdf) ‘**Polluters’ Paradise**’ <https://www.tni.org/files/publication-downloads/pollutersparadise.pdf> **Paper petition to Tim Farron MP against ISDS/ICS**

⁹ “Chevron argues that the mere existence of ISDS is important as it acts as a deterrent.” EU Commission official about a meeting with Chevron on ISDS in TTIP, 29 April 2014 <http://www.bothends.org/en/Publications/document/173/CETA-Trading-away-democracy>. **PETITION to Farron**.

¹⁰ E.g. reason 5: <http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/resources/five-reasons-ttip-and-ceta-are-terrible-climate> & **WonW** & **FoE**

¹¹ You can easily test this yourself by doing a word search through **the COP21 accord document**. I did: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/I09.pdf>

¹² **Fossil fuel subsidies**: Fossil fuel companies are benefitting from global **subsidies** of \$5.3tn (£3.4tn) a year according to the **IMF**. Oil Change International defines ‘subsidies’ more narrowly for its figures: <http://priceofoil.org/fossil-fuel-subsidies/> & [link to pdf](#). Also see 16 below - on the US scenario, & **George Monbiot’s 2feb16 article on the UK scenario**.

¹³ The original **Carbon Tracker** report re +2°C limit: <http://www.carbontracker.org/report/carbon-bubble/> Budget much smaller for the +1.5°C target: some argue it is now zero or negative, others that we only have a few years window left.

¹⁴ For example: the ‘**Carbon Majors**’ study calculated the total carbon emissions of individual fossil fuel companies and summed them <http://carbonmajors.org/> & via Richard Heed’s 2013 paper: **Climate Accountability Institute**, & **infographic**.

¹⁵ 16sep15 **Exxon’s Own Research Confirmed Fossil Fuels’ Role in Global Warming Decades Ago** - InsideClimate News <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/15092015/Exxons-own-research-confirmed-fossil-fuels-role-in-global-warming> “Top executives were warned of possible catastrophe from greenhouse effect, then led efforts to block solutions.” ... And a sequence of subsequent articles by the same investigators, who also revealed that other oil companies were also made aware. Here are some responses to this news: 350.org co-founder Bill McKibben has [described it](#) as “the most consequential lie in human history.” And Andrew Simms of Prime Economics, in his piece “**2015: Economics, Energy and Climate Change**” in **part 2 of EREP report ‘The cracks begin to show: a review of the UK economy in 2015’** – is also well worth reading on this.

¹⁶ The most influential climate and agw denialism is by US Congress, especially by Republicans: try typing in a company such as BP, Shell, Exxon, Chevron here to get an idea of how much it funds those in Congress: <http://dirtyenergymoney.com/> Such funding is also to help maximize taxpayer subsidies for fossil fuels, and other government support for fossil investment projects. “In the United States, credible estimates of annual **fossil fuel subsidies** range from **\$10 billion to \$52 billion**

[annually](#) yet these don't even include costs borne by taxpayers related to the climate, local environmental, and health impacts of the fossil fuel industry. As of July 2014, Oil Change International estimates U.S. fossil fuel subsidies at \$37.5 billion annually, including \$21 billion in production and exploration subsidies." – <http://priceofoil.org/fossil-fuel-subsidies/>

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