

Help stop CETA giving legal powers to the fossil fuel industry – MEPs vote on 15th February



[Contribution by Henry Adams for SLACctt February 2017 newsletter and [SLACctt website](#)]
[more recent additions in italics]

On 15th February the European Parliament has tabled the plenary vote for MEPs on **CETA** - the **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement** between the **EU** and **Canada**. CETA still contains the climate-threatening ICS/ISDS text, which would give both Canadian and US oil and fracking firms the power to challenge and undermine any climate legislation that might reduce their future profits (such as any reinstatement of the Fuel Quality Directive's distinction against higher carbon intensity fuels such as from Canada's tar sands).

Please write to your MEPs to vote against CETA because it undermines the Paris Agreement on climate change by giving such legal powers to fossil fuel and other TNCs. It protects the investor, but lacks any legal "teeth" to protect the environment. On the ICS/ISDS you could refer to this online pdf: '**The strong case against separate corporate court systems (ICS/ISDS)**' which is reached with this link: www.bit.ly/ICSISDS This pdf states "**We can't let big US oil and fracking firms have an ICS/ISDS in CETA to undermine climate legislation.**" and contains the quote: "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, 29th April 2014). And it's not just the ICS/ISDS text that's a threat: for example big business requests have been included in CETA text such as on "regulatory cooperation", as this new report shows:

https://corporateeurope.org/sites/default/files/attachments/ceo_regulatory_cooperation_06.1.pdf

Also EU's precautionary principle is diluted.

The crucial "swing voters" (in a broad sense) on CETA will be the MEPs in the S&D group (Social & Democrat) – who call themselves "Progressives" and include UK's Labour MEPs. Though UK public citizens and citizens-groups have persuaded most Labour MEPs such as Julie Ward MEP (NW England) against CETA, many S&D MEPs in other EU countries may follow their leaders by rubber-stamping CETA without adequate scrutiny – unless persuaded otherwise. So please ask Labour MEPs to persuade their S&D allies against CETA. S&D group is apparently deciding their final position maybe on 14th February – the vote may be "on a knife-edge".

You would think that the “progressives” would agree with the opinion against CETA by the MEPs’ Committee on Employment and Social Affairs:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/henryadams/32497745535/in/datetaken-public/lightbox/> But many such “moderate” politicians seem to have a “herd” instinct and may presume an EU trade agreement with an ally to be a good thing, and there is a moo’d (excuse the pun) amongst many MEPs to rush through CETA before the EU loses another so-called “trade deal”.

Below are both contact and source information to help you.

Contacting your MEPs:

GJN at www.globaljustice.org.uk and War on Want here: www.waronwant.org/final-ceta-vote-ask-your-mep-say-no both provide template emails which are quick and easy if you are short of time, but they don’t focus on climate change and won’t have the impact of your own personal email.

This is a help: <https://www.writetothem.com/> - but doesn’t reveal MEPs urls to you and restricts you to simple text. So here are urls for the Labour MEPs for NW England:

Theresa Griffin MEP, Tel: **00 322 284 5271** theresa@theresa.griffin.eu <http://theresagriffin.eu>

Afzal Khan MEP, Tel: **07966 796767** contact@afzalkhan.org.uk www.afzalkhan.org.uk

Julie Ward MEP, Tel: **00 322 284 5702** contact@juliewardmep.eu www.juliewardmep.eu

And for all UK’s Labour MEPs – here’s an Excel spreadsheet you can use/download: www.dragonfly1.plus.com/ListofLabourMEPs.xlsx

Do try this too in addition – it’s an online tool which makes it easy for you to ask MEPs to vote against CETA, to pledge to do so, and to question MEPs on CETA, providing both questions and contacting MEPs for you: DO THE CETA CHECK! - <https://stop-ttip.org/cetacheck/>

Sources to help you

No need to write much!

Press release for hand-over of ICS/ISDS petition to Tim Farron MP – useful for quotes – or “plagiarize”: www.dragonfly1.plus.com/Press_release_for_handover_of_ICs-ISDS_petition_on_Friday_21oct16.pdf

You could download and add one of these photos to give impact:

www.dragonfly1.plus.com/PhotobyLizAshburnof21oct16handoverofICS-ISDSpetition-crop1-s.jpg

www.dragonfly1.plus.com/ICS-ISDSpetitionin3nov16WestmorlandGazette.jpg – useful quote there?

You could add e.g. “Please represent your constituents ...” referring to number of signatures.

This pdf gives links to useful references on CETA: <http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/CETAreferences.pdf>

Appendix:

Update on Canada’s tar sands industry re CETA: EU climate legislation in the Fuel Quality Directive has already been diluted to ineffectiveness when it was “traded away” like a “bargaining chip” during the negotiation of TTIP and CETA. The FQD’s climate legislation originally aimed to reduce incentives for importing the more carbon-intense oil products from sources such as the tar sands. Other limits to tar sands expansion via export have also been removed: Both Trump and Trudeau have OK’d the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline and Trudeau has OK’d other tar sands pipelines too, and the expansion of the tar sands industry, thereby making his signing of the Paris Agreement a pretence. The implementation of CETA and its ICS-ISDS would make it hard to halt expansion of the tar sands by regulatory means. More

on the tar sands implications here: <http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/#blog> for recent news, and www.dragonfly1.plus.com for tar sands intro.