

Submission by Henry Adams for SLACC September 2014 Newsletter

*Suggested section to go under: **SLACC Events - the details***

New group: **STOP TTIP South Lakeland** – would like help for events at the Birdcage, Kendal, between 11am and 3pm on:

Saturday 13th September

Friday 19th September – this will have a climate focus as it's followed on Sunday by a 350.org Global Day of Action (e.g. to divest from FF's) with People's Climate March (e.g. in Manchester, Wirral, London).

Wednesday 24th September

Wednesday 1st October

We will try to inform and empower as many passers-by as possible about TTIP, CETA and ISDS, with the aid of display-board posters, leaflets, and petitions – including a national 38 Degrees petition.

If you would like to help please sign up to the 38 Degrees TTIP forum for our W&L constituency <http://ttipaction.38degrees.org.uk/> and/or contact Henry Adams henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com or Claire Wickham.

If time, talent and temerity permit, we could also add a “stunt” on the 3rd and/or 4th date for attracting curiosity and media photographers, such as a mock “tug-of-war” between corporate interests (e.g. Big Oil, frackers, Monsanto, US health Inc.s etc) and the public (eg save our NHS, climate action, frack-free, bees v pesticides, democratic rights etc). But we'd need a suitable thick rope, a bit of theatrical talent and businessman-style suits. Is that your thing?

STOP TTIP South Lakeland is a group open to all in W&L who want a stop to TTIP and CETA and removal of the dangerous ISDS clause. It formed at a recent meeting of people signing up to the 38 Degrees action facility for constituencies, and has now been joined by SL-WDM. Its other main action is leafleting streets, and Claire Wickham has kindly taken the role of hub-person for co-ordinating helpers, such as to ensure streets aren't duplicated and we know the gaps. Please help with this too – and get to know more of your neighbours!

Unfortunately Tim Farron still supports TTIP as he is still keen on his own idealistic vision of what “free trade” should be and its potential empowerment to our local companies investing abroad (a “free trade” which doesn't quite tally with the reality of how the pro-corporate drivers of TTIP see free trade and investment in TTIP and CETA). He also favours our local companies having access to a tribunal instead of a court when investing abroad such as in the US, but can't quite take in the consequences we'd face from US companies here, despite being briefed on this for at least a year. However, he has helped us this week by writing to Vince Cable (SoS for BIS) for specific responses to Henry's numbered points (e.g. on the ISDS) in his briefing for Tim's meeting at DforBIS: www.bit.ly/FTAbriefTimFarron

Do write to Tim and/or the Westmorland Gazette to keep the pressure up. Our local website resource on TTIP and CETA is here: www.bit.ly/FTAthreats and the 'ACTION by YOU' section will soon be updated to include Brian's new leaflet pdf summarizing TTIP and listing easy actions.

To the editor: you could omit the pale grey text to shorten it.

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