

TTIP - WHAT IT IS AND WHY WE DON'T NEED IT

(A leaflet by 'STOP TTIP South Lakes')

Citizens across Europe & the US are taking action against the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). This shady deal is being negotiated in secret by EU and the US negotiators and it will lead to a massive transfer of power to transnational corporations. A similar agreement between the EU and Canada (CETA), is now almost ready for the ratification stage before having had public consultation or democratic involvement.

TTIP & CETA are sold as "free trade agreements", cutting red tape, as if they'd benefit everyone. The reality is that any financial gain would be bought at the expense of our democratic rights, environmental damage, workers' rights, lower wages, weaker food standards, and opening up of what is left of our publically owned assets for private gain.

We're all supposed to be "in it together" but it's likely that 99% of any financial gain would end up in the pockets of the 1% who, unlike most UK citizens, have seen eye-watering increases in their wealth during the recent recession.

If big business gets its way the NHS will be replaced by a privatised system based on ability to pay, similar to that seen in the US. The US has the most expensive health care in the world, where fraud is rampant and private greed is prioritised over public need. Powerful drug companies are also pushing to extend their patent rights which would increase health costs here in the UK, and throughout the world.

Assets that were publically owned, such as gas, water, electricity, rail, and bus services would be very difficult to bring back into public ownership as existing companies could, under "Investment State Dispute Settlements" (ISDS), sue the UK government for loss of future income. ISDS has already been used to sue governments under other trade deals. For example tobacco companies have sued for loss of income when legal reforms, introduced for health reasons, have been introduced; while mining companies have successfully sued when governments have introduced legislation to protect the environment.

So far over 90% of the consultations the EU Commissioners have had concerning TTIP have been with large corporations and their representatives, while public service organisations, NGOs, and workers representatives have only had a token input to these deliberations.

A similar agreement between the USA and Mexico led to a net loss of 1 million jobs and declining wages in both countries.

UNDER THE BANNER OF 'FREE TRADE,' CORPORATE RIGHTS WILL BE ELEVATED ABOVE OUR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS.

What can you do to protect your interests?

The links below are all accessible from **this leaflet's online version:** www.bit.ly/TTIPleaflet or via **our website:** www.bit.ly/STOP-TTIP-South-Lakes

1. **Sign the European Citizens Initiative against TTIP. The initial target of 1 million signatures has been achieved. Help it reach 2 million signatures:** stop-ttip.org/sign/
2. **TTIP and CETA will liberalize trade and extraction of the worst fossil fuels, so increasing climate change.** FoE makes it easy to urge your MEPs against this: <https://www.foe.co.uk/act/who-wouldnt-reject-toxic-trade-deal>
3. Our MP Tim Farron favours TTIP and "free trade". Tell him and your MEPs to urge for removal of the ISDS, and to exclude the NHS and public services from TTIP and CETA. If EU Trade Commissioner Cecelia Malstrom says the NHS and environmental legislation in the public interest are not safe unless specifically excluded from ISDS, why are they not being excluded by our politicians? To contact your MP/MEP go to <https://www.writetothem.com/> or use Tim's email address: tim@timfarron.co.uk
4. Watch the 38 degrees video on TTIP and sign their petition against it. https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/pages/ttip_more_information
5. Ask the BBC and other media, including your local "newspaper", to cover this secretive TTIP deal. Listen to the BBC program on ISDS "Company vs Country" <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05ntj7p> transmitted on 30/3/2015.
6. Reasons to fear TTIP: It is carried out in Secret; it threatens our Democracy, Public Services, Food Safety, The Environment, Workers Rights, Personal Privacy, Bank Regulation & Climate Change; later on it will be imposed on Developing Countries. http://www.nottip.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/TTIP_Newspaper-FINAL.pdf

Other sources of information:

War On Want www.waronwant.org/campaigns/trade-justice/ttip e.g.:

<http://www.waronwant.org/campaigns/trade-justice/more/watch/18161stop-ttip>

Corporate lobbying in Europe <http://corporateeurope.org/> The [#noTTIP Times](https://twitter.com/NoTTIPTimes)

Alternative Trade Mandate <http://www.alternativetrademandate.org/>

Produced by 'STOP TTIP South Lakes', a concerned group of individuals sharing the view that TTIP and CETA must be stopped and the ISDS removed. Trade agreements should prioritise public & sustainable interests before the short term interests of corporations.

Please copy this leaflet and distribute it as widely as possible

PDF file downloadable from www.bit.ly/TTIPleaflet

Do join our campaign: Email stop.ttip.slakes@gmail.com

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