

TTIP and SME's – letter emailed by Henry Adams to Tim Farron MP on 19Jan16

From: henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2016 6:41 PM
To: [Tim Farron MP](#) ; info@greenlibdems.org.uk ; [Catherine Bearder MEP - Brussels Office](#)
Subject: TTIP and SME's

Dear Tim,

TTIP and SME's

As TTIP aims primarily to benefit big business TNC's, such as by giving them [“stakeholder” powers to dictate “regulatory cooperation” between the US and EU](#), it is no surprise that SME's are becoming increasingly unhappy about the threat of competitive disadvantages they are likely to face against TNC's if TTIP is implemented (and other issues too).

I have compiled recent links and quotes on this here: <http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/TTIP&SMEs.pdf> from which I will now provide extracts:

I quote **Titus Sharpe, 2015 Entrepreneur of the Year**, from his piece in the Independent on Monday: “... TTIP is a **major threat** to small and medium-sized business in the UK and Europe. And that's why I've joined with other British business owners to launch the initiative, [Business Against TTIP](#).”... “TTIP places our businesses under threat: it will force us into unfair competition with US firms with lower standards and lower costs, with the predicted loss of at least **680,000 jobs** across Europe. We know that TTIP means our higher European standards are under threat undermining the social, health and environmental standards that we enjoy in Europe.” Do read more: <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/here-is-how-ttip-threatens-small-businesses-in-the-uk-a6819131.html>

And here is the new website **Business Against TTIP** www.businessagainstttip.org

I quote 2 of the leading members on TTIP:

Titus Sharpe, CEO of MVF Global and Entrepreneur of the Year 2015, said:

“This deal has been created with predominantly large American corporate interests in mind and will have a negative impact on small and medium sized British business. This deal puts large corporate interests ahead of our government and democracy. It's imperative we stop this deal happening for the sake of the British economy.

Ben Goldsmith, Menhaden Capital PLC, Chair of Conservative Environment Network, said:

“TTIP is very different to a normal trade deal. It is profoundly hypocritical of our current government to highlight threats to UK sovereignty while also promoting TTIP within Europe. I am supporting Business Against TTIP because I believe it is vital that small and medium sized companies join this conversation.””

It is worth bearing in mind that, and here I quote from a recent report:

“TTIP was crafted by and for big business. The overwhelming majority of European small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) do not engage in trade outside the EU, and only a tiny minority (0.7%) export to the USA. According to the European Commission's survey for TTIP, less than 0.5% of UK small businesses are engaged in the export of goods to US markets. Most small businesses are more concerned with protecting their own markets than conquering the States.”

My pdf also links to my letter in the Westmorland Gazette last year on the likely bad impact of US industrial-scale food and farming on UK small farmers that TTIP would release. This impact has recently been quantified in terms of likely trade flows: these predictions are for US gains, EU losses.

I have copied this to the Green Liberal Democrats, because of this related link:

18jan16 **TTIP threatens EU environmental goals, green business leaders warn** – Jocelyn Timperley - BusinessGreen <http://m.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2442048/ttip-threatens-eu-environmental-goals-green-business-leaders-warn>

And to **Catherine Bearder MEP** because her website shows she is trying to get gains for SME's out of TTIP, but any gains are likely to be very much outweighed by losses. BTW: Great work Catherine on trying to reduce air pollution. I hope you can also remove the LibDem "blindspot" as regards the threats of TTIP and CETA. I'll reply to your last email as soon as I can on the ICS – which Malmstrom has admitted to the Canadians as essentially not much different from the ISDS in CETA (as we know already!).

SUMMARY: TTIP is not good for SME's (nor us). So who would it be good for?

Answer: TNC's: corporate power and profits, e.g. for oil and gas interests, BigAgriBiz, City interests..., US (corporate) geopolitical power...

- Couldn't be more opposite to what we need for tackling the biggest challenges of the 21st century, such as climate change and increasing inequality – both of which TTIP, CETA and TPP will make worse, and constrain our democratic space to tackle.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Adams

<http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/TTIP&SMEs.pdf>

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Hidden dangers for us all in TTIP and CETA: www.bit.ly/STOP-TTIP-South-Lakes <<<<