

TTIP – CLIMATE – “ISDS-lite” – Tim Farron MP – Catherine Bearder MEP – GreenLibDems

**Update on my TTIP climate correspondence with Tim Farron MP, Catherine Bearder MEP, and the GreenLibDems** (Catherine Bearder [SE England] is LibDem’s only MEP)

**Including the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 EP plenary voting for a resolution on TTIP**

Dr Henry Adams, Kendal, member of [South Lakes Action on Climate Change Towards Transition](#).

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**24<sup>th</sup> July 2015 surgery meeting with Tim Farron on the climate-threatening text within the European Parliament (EP) resolution report on TTIP which Catherine Bearder had voted for**

This meeting was so short (c.5 minutes or so) that I only had time to do the following:

1. Re-explain why this text in the resolution report is so dangerous for our climate: “to ensure that” ...“TTIP would **abolish any existing restrictions or impediments of export for fuels, including LNG and crude oil, between the two trading partners**”. I explained that this is aimed at the long-standing restrictions and ban by the US on gas and oil exports respectively, and why these sources would have much higher carbon intensities than our existing conventional sources (reasons: emails below and here: [www.bit.ly/climatebeforefossilfuels](http://www.bit.ly/climatebeforefossilfuels) ).
2. I asked Tim again if he would ensure that Catherine Bearder explains why she voted for the report with this text still in place, by *specifically answering the questions I’ve already provided in my emails below*. Tim appeared to agree to doing that, or at least quickly grasped what I was requesting, and I said I would re-send him the email thread below, and copy the thread to SLACctt, FoE, SGR and other interested parties for their scrutiny and hopefully endorsement. Catherine Bearder usually works hard for the environment, but in this instance she has made a big misjudgement which I hope will not re-occur now Tim Farron is LibDem leader. If she recognizes her error that would be helpful.

Interesting that Tim had heard of [the recent analysis](#) that pointed to the 2007-9 recession in the US economy as having contributed much more to the reduced US emissions than the US switch from coal to fracked gas.

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I was of course extremely disappointed that Catherine Bearder voted with the Tories on the Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July EP plenary voting on TTIP, by voting for the “ISDS-lite” amendment, and for the resolution complete with anti-climate text - despite my warnings via Tim Farron that the anti-climate text must be removed.

Tim Farron had given the impression of some degree of agreement with my views on the anti-climate text at a surgery meeting, though appears not to have added such a viewpoint when he forwarded [my letter to Bearder](#) for a response (I guess his covering email was probably neutral without any endorsement). Note: this was before Tim became LibDem leader. I hope that now that he is LibDem leader he will be able to lead on this issue and put climate first before debatable business profits.

Henry Adams, Kendal, July 2015

Link to 3<sup>rd</sup> July Guardian piece by FoE’s Sam Lowe:  
[‘TTIP aim to lift US oil export ban goes against climate targets’](#)

*Email thread below:*

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**From:** [Tim Farron MP](#)

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2015 2:55 PM

**To:** [henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com](mailto:henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com)

**Subject:** Re: My letter to Catherine Bearder MEP on TTIP - No to liberalization of oil and gas exports from the US

Dr. Henry Adams  
55 Hayclose Crescent  
KENDAL, CUMBRIA  
LA9 7NT  
Our Ref: Adam032/41/ag  
28 July 2015

Dear Henry

I am pleased to confirm that I have written to our MEP to submit your question and briefing.

I will write again, when I have received the response.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

**Tim Farron MP**

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**From:** [henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com](mailto:henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com) <[henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com](mailto:henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com)>

**Sent:** 27 July 2015 16:17

**To:** Tim Farron MP

**Cc:** [info@greenlibdems.org.uk](mailto:info@greenlibdems.org.uk)

**Subject:** Fw: My letter to Catherine Bearder MEP on TTIP - No to liberalization of oil and gas exports from the US

Dear Tim

**TTIP, climate and democracy**

Your Ref: Adam032/41/ag

Thank you for listening to my re-explanation of how carbon emissions would be greatly boosted if TTIP followed the EP resolution report's words: "to ensure that"..."TTIP would **abolish any existing restrictions or impediments of export for fuels, including LNG and crude oil, between the two trading partners**".

**I would be grateful if you would forward this email thread and attached pdf to Catherine Bearder MEP asking her why she voted for the resolution report with the above dangerous text still in place, by asking for specific answers to the questions I've written in the uppermost 2 emails below.**

Catherine Bearder has a good track record on working to protect our environment – but her vote for the above is clearly a worryingly big step in the opposite direction.

I have written-up our meeting here: [www.bit.ly/TTIPclimateBearder](http://www.bit.ly/TTIPclimateBearder) and will forward this email to SLACctt, FoE, SGR (Scientists for Global Responsibility) and other interested people for their scrutiny.

I am hoping that now you are LibDem leader there can be an end to such LibDem support for boosting carbon emissions which is so at odds with words that put climate as a high priority.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Adams, member of [SLACctt](#)

**From:** [henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com](mailto:henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com)

**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2015 12:12 PM

**To:** [Tim Farron MP](#)

**Cc:** [Catherine Bearder MEP - Brussels Office](#) ; [info@greenlibdems.org.uk](mailto:info@greenlibdems.org.uk)

**Subject:** Fw: My letter to Catherine Bearder MEP on TTIP - No to liberalization of oil and gas exports from the US

Dear Tim, **TTIP, climate and democracy** Your Ref: Adam032/41/ag

POSTSCRIPT to my email below

More questions to Catherine Bearder MEP on TTIP and climate:

Last Wednesday 8th July the European Parliament depressingly voted against the following climate amendments (which I've summarized):

**Am.11 Climate policy should have priority over trade promotion.** [full text in europarl website – bit I've lost link]

**Am.21 TTIP should take into account climate goals.** [[full text in europarl website](#)]

And this one was either voted against or was denied a vote(?), as the text it aimed to replace was retained in the resolution as I've already pointed out in my email below):

**Am.22 Ban export of liquefied fracked gas and tar sands oil from the US (protect FQD aims).** [text as in my pdf letter to Catherine Bearder]

Deletion of the resolution text that promotes the opposite of this amendment could have sufficed as an alternative to this amendment, together with text protecting the aim of the FQD to limit such high carbon intensity feedstocks.

**Question: How did Catherine Bearder vote on these climate amendments when voted on individually? And her reasons, if she voted against them.**

I'm sure you will spot that Amendment 11 is very similar to the point of mine that I'm glad you agree with – that TTIP (and by implication CETA too) should not give primacy to “free trade principles” over tackling climate change (and should thus reverse the current default status quo). I hope this becomes a Liberal Democrat “red line” for TTIP and CETA.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Adams, Kendal

**From:** [henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com](mailto:henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com)

**Sent:** Friday, July 10, 2015 4:12 PM

**To:** [Tim Farron MP](#)

**Cc:** [Catherine Bearder MEP - Brussels Office](#) ; [info@greenlibdems.org.uk](mailto:info@greenlibdems.org.uk)

**Subject:** Fw: My letter to Catherine Bearder MEP on TTIP - No to liberalization of oil and gas exports from the US

Dear Tim,

**TTIP, climate and democracy**

Your Ref: Adam032/41/ag

Many thanks Tim for your consideration to forward Catherine Bearder MEP's letter to me on the 8th July plenary vote by MEPs for a resolution report on TTIP. I very much mean that – as I know you are very otherwise-involved now.

Too right I'm "not satisfied" with the EP resolution on TTIP – that Catherine Bearder voted for! And here's why: (text copied from the resolution, my bolding)

"... to ensure that in course of the negotiations the two sides examine ways to facilitate energy exports, so that TTIP would **abolish any existing restrictions or impediments of export for fuels, including LNG and crude oil, between the two trading partners,**"...

This means: the resolution urges for the removal of US's long-standing ban on export of crude oil and its strict licencing restrictions on export of gas. These North American sources are as you both know, of **significantly higher life-cycle carbon emissions** than conventional sources, as they would include **tar sands** oil and liquefied fracked gas. US fracked gas has associated fugitive methane leakages that can increase its carbon intensity up to around that of coal, and liquefaction to LNG adds C-emissions to that.

**This would be disastrous for climate reasons**, and it's totally unnecessary.

I have already explained this repeatedly, together with rebuttals for the weak reasons given for the above (see attached letter and appended emails), yet they remain unanswered. Neither of you can say you didn't know about the above text!

I am sure that there will be at least some members of the Green Liberal Democrats who would like answers to the following questions, and more:

1. How can Catherine write that she wants "stronger environmental protections provisions", and at the same time vote for the resolution with the above text still in place – which goes in the opposite direction to what she writes!
2. Why did she not vote against the resolution, towards the resolution being re-amended without that text?
3. Does Catherine Bearder agree with the resolution text I've quoted, for liberalization of trade in oil and gas from the US, and if so why?
4. (a) Or does Catherine disagree with the text, but not so-strongly-so, that she puts her wished-for economic and geopolitical TTIP gains above the huge losses for our climate?  
(b) I know from her writings that she is pushing for gains for small businesses: does she prioritise those above climate, despite the likelihood that such gains are likely to be more than offset in competitive-advantage terms by bigger gains for the TNC's, because TTIP will tip the "playing field" still further towards TNC's? (and don't forget – geopolitically: US interests are run for and by TNC's).
5. The resolution wants to "to retain the objective of dedicating a specific chapter to energy"... Would Catherine Bearder prefer (a) an 'Energy and climate' chapter to an 'energy' chapter, or much better still: a "climate and energy chapter"?

In voting how she did on the resolution, and on the “ISDS-lite” amendment supporting a separate court system for TNC’s and companies, Catherine sided with the Tories against the Greens, Labour, Plaid Cymru, SNP, and most of UKIP.

She also voted against the views of 2.3 million and rising, of those Europeans who signed the self-organized European Citizens Initiative to stop TTIP, and against the 700+ of your constituents Tim who in 2014 signed a petition to you **against any separate court system for foreign companies and transnational corporations**, and against the great many thousands of UK citizens – including the thousands of Catherine’s own constituents, who responded likewise to the EC’s “consultation” last year. In Catherine’s paragraph 4 she gives her constituents a “replacement” – I’m sure they wanted **total removal** of any separate courts, not replacement with an “ISDS-lite”. They won’t have been fooled. The replacement is a separate court system for settling disputes between investors and states is it not? Do you think they’ll accept for example an “SDIS” instead!

OK the resolution could have been worse, but it could have been better, both as I’ve explained above, and if MEPs had listened to their constituents instead of business lobbyists, and rejected a separate court system. Also, MEPs were denied a vote on that amendment! They voted instead for the very rubbery no-name compromise or “ISDS-lite” amendment, which retains many of the significantly dangerous and undemocratic flaws of the standard ISDS (and in the CETA ISDS) as explained here:

[www.bit.ly/TTIPvote](http://www.bit.ly/TTIPvote)

But I’ll write separately on that, because I do not want to divert here from the climate questions above.

I will read Catherine’s link to the Smart TTIP – to see if it answers convincingly any of my climate questions above.

I hope my questions above will help you Tim – if you want to avoid another big “climate fail” by the LibDems when you become LibDem leader.

Catherine Bearder has done a lot of good things for the environment, including during this week, but her voting on Wednesday was extremely disappointing in this and other respects – to put it mildly.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Adams - wanting to green the LibDems (if that’s at all possible?)

Dr Henry Adams (Ecological Consultant)

Home phone: 01539 722158

Mobile:

55 Hayclose Crescent, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 7NT

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/@henryadamsUK](https://twitter.com/@henryadamsUK)

My website: [www.dragonfly1.plus.com/topics.html](http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/topics.html)

**Hidden dangers for us all in TTIP and CETA: [www.bit.ly/STOP-TTIP-South-Lakes](http://www.bit.ly/STOP-TTIP-South-Lakes) <<<<**

**And how you can try and remove them: [www.bit.ly/FTAemailMP](http://www.bit.ly/FTAemailMP) <<<<**

**From:** Tim Farron MP

**Sent:** Friday, July 10, 2015 10:19 AM

**To:** henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com

**Subject:** Fw: TF - Ref: Adam032/41/ag

Dr. Henry Adams  
55 Hayclose Crescent  
KENDAL, CUMBRIA

Dear Henry

Please find attached the response from Catherine Bearder MEP to the letter that I wrote on your behalf with regard to TTIP.

Although I know that you will not be satisfied with what I consider to have been a breakthrough, I hope that you will accept that this is a considerable improvement and probably as much as we can achieve under a Tory Government.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

**TIM FARRON MP**

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**From:** Catherine Bearder MEP <casework@bearder.eu>  
**Sent:** 08 July 2015 15:41  
**To:** Tim Farron MP  
**Subject:** RE: TF - Ref: Adam032/41/ag

Dear Tim,

Thank you for your further email about the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) being negotiated between Europe and the United States.

I am reporting back to say that earlier today, the European Parliament backed the conclusion of talks over TTIP but called for the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) to be scrapped.

I, along with the majority of MEPs have demanded that the controversial ISDS be replaced by a transparent and accountable form of investor protection that protects the right of governments to regulate in the public interest. The Parliament's resolution also calls on negotiators to ensure that EU environmental and consumer standards are not lowered, public services such as the NHS are excluded and the transparency of the negotiations is improved.

This vote gives the European Commission strong democratic support to conclude trade talks with the US but it requires them to take the public's concerns on board. Thousands of constituents have contacted me with their objections, amongst certain other provisions of the draft agreement. As a result, ISDS should be scrapped and replaced by a fair, transparent form of investor protection which ensures national governments have full control over the provision of public services.

I am also pleased that the EU Trade Commissioner Malmstrom has improved the transparency of the TTIP talks, publishing negotiating texts online and opening meetings to the public. Along with my colleagues in the Liberal Group in Parliament, I am now pushing for even greater transparency.

The negotiations on TTP provide an opportunity to strengthen the ties across the Atlantic. Both economically and geopolitically, I think this provides an opportunity we should not miss. As of yet, there is not a treaty text as the negotiations are still ongoing. It may take years to conclude it, this is not the time to say 'yes' or 'no' to TTIP. As your MEP, I am continuing to lobby for the kind of TTIP that we want – namely, one that delivers new jobs, but does not undermine the rule of law, the NHS or our environmental standards.

Therefore your constituent has some valid concerns about the environment, ALDE would like to see TTIP be reformed and become a 'Smart TTIP'. I would like to see TTIP agreed but with stronger environmental protections provisions. Please point your constituent towards this [link](#) about Smart TTIP, to show what we are arguing for in the European Parliament.

I hope this is helpful for you.

Best wishes,

Catherine

Catherine Bearder

Liberal Democrat member of the European Parliament for the South East of England  
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**NB:** *[this paragraph written by Henry Adams] The email thread below was **not** appended to the above letter by Catherine Bearder MEP when she emailed it to Tim Farron MP, but has been "tacked on" by me so as to keep relevant emails together as a thread to aid referencing.*

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**From:** [henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com](mailto:henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2015 9:40 AM  
**To:** [Catherine Bearder MEP - Brussels Office](#)  
**Cc:** [catherine@bearder.eu](mailto:catherine@bearder.eu) ; [Tim Farron MP](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: My letter to Catherine Bearder MEP on TTIP - No to liberalization of oil and gas exports from the US

Dear Catherine Bearder MEP and team,

TTIP voting today:

**Please vote against text in the resolution that urges for removal of the US ban and restrictions on exporting its oil and gas (respectively).** These North American sources, which would include tar sands oil and liquefied fracked gas, have much higher life-cycle carbon emissions than conventional sources, and if TTIP liberalizes their trade this would be a climate disaster with which the Liberal Democrats should avoid complicity.

**NB: If such text has not been removed from the resolution then please vote against *the whole resolution*.**

I know you are wanting to push for gains for UK small businesses **but these should not be at the expense of climate.**

I append some of my communications with Tim Farron and the Green Liberal Democrats on this matter, and the letter to yourself via Tim that provides further details, such as why oil and gas are not the right options now for “energy security”.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Henry Adams



**From:** [henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com](mailto:henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com)

**Sent:** Friday, July 3, 2015 5:33 PM

**To:** [info@greenlibdems.org.uk](mailto:info@greenlibdems.org.uk)

**Cc:** [jane.brophy@greenlibdems.org.uk](mailto:jane.brophy@greenlibdems.org.uk) ; [Tim Farron MP](#)

**Subject:** Fw: My letter to Catherine Bearder MEP on TTIP - No to liberalization of oil and gas exports from the US

Dear Green Liberal Democrats,

**TTIP, fossil fuels and CLIMATE CHANGE**

**URGENT:** Next Tuesday-Wednesday (7th & 8th July) MEPs including Catherine Bearder will be voting on a resolution/report on **TTIP**.

When I last looked at the report it contained text disastrous for climate as it urged for removal of the US ban and restrictions for export of oil and gas (respectively). It is unclear at present whether that text has since been removed (unlikely), or whether it's up for potential removal by a vote on an amendment.

Please urge Catherine Bearder MEP to vote against the report/resolution on TTIP on Wednesday if it still contains this text, and forward the attached pdf to her with your comments (hopefully



endorsements). I have met and emailed Tim Farron MP on this matter (see below) over a fortnight ago to put him in the picture.

**It would be disastrous for the climate-credibility of the LibDems and the GreenLibDems if Catherine Bearder overlooks this anti-climate text and helps vote through the resolution-report with the text still in place. This is why I hope you agree that it is an urgent priority that she is made fully aware of this pitfall.**

I have for many years done my best to brief Tim Farron on climate-related matters and it would be a huge disappointment if the LibDems, including the GreenLibDems are party, intentionally or otherwise, to promoting trade and thus extraction and burning of the higher life-cycle oil and gas from North America (includes tar sands oil as well as liquefied fracked gas).

Yours sincerely,

Dr Henry Adams , Kendal

(scroll down for my contact details)

**From:** [henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com](mailto:henryadams@dragonfly1.plus.com)

**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2015 4:58 PM

**To:** [Tim Farron MP](#)

**Subject:** My letter to Catherine Bearder MEP on TTIP - No to liberalization of oil and gas exports from the US

Dear Tim,

**My letter to Catherine Bearder MEP on TTIP – NO to liberalization of oil and gas exports from the US**

Thank you for a useful surgery meeting this morning on the threats to climate within the report of recommendations by the European Parliament's International Trade Committee (INTA).

I now attach [my letter to Catherine Bearder on TTIP](#) – asking for her to persuade ALDE to push for deletion of climate-threatening text from the INTA report, especially that which urges for removal of existing barriers to export of crude oil and fracked gas (as LPG) from US. Such “feedstocks” have higher life-cycle carbon emissions than existing UK imports from elsewhere.

I would be grateful if you could forward the letter to Catherine Bearder and ask her if she agrees with my assessments, and if so, whether she is pushing for ALDE to support amendments to the INTA report which will 1. remove the climate-threatening text and 2. insert text that will explicitly protect regulations present and future on climate such as EU's Fuel Quality Directive (which is now in a diluted and ineffective state thanks to the oil industry pressures associated with TTIP and CETA negotiations). Also whether she would vote against any INTA or other recommendations for TTIP if they include such climate-threatening pro-fossil-fuel text.

I will also be writing an assessment on the proposals she favours for a replacement for the ISDS – which she writes on here:

[http://www.bearder.eu/update\\_ttipp\\_catherine\\_bearder](http://www.bearder.eu/update_ttipp_catherine_bearder)

But will write separately on that, as there is enough complexity for one letter in the one attached!

Lastly, I mentioned I was disappointed that Catherine Bearder voted against MEPs having the programmed debate on TTIP last week when in plenary session. I felt that was a lost opportunity for some democratic involvement in TTIP when it is kept so minimal, especially as compared with the very much larger input from big business lobbying groups and TNC's.

I would be grateful to know how she responds.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Adams

Dr Henry Adams (Ecological Consultant)

Home phone: 01539 722158

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Twitter: [www.twitter.com/@henryadamsUK](http://www.twitter.com/@henryadamsUK) My website: [www.dragonfly1.plus.com/topics.html](http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/topics.html)

**Hidden dangers for us all in TTIP and CETA: [www.bit.ly/STOP-TTIP-South-Lakes](http://www.bit.ly/STOP-TTIP-South-Lakes) <<<<**

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Background to the above

*This text below the above double-dashed line is not part of the above thread of emails but is to provide some links showing some of the background to the above regarding my briefings to Tim Farron MP on the impact of TTIP and CETA on climate change.*

I have brought up the TTIP/CETA-climate subject with Tim Farron a number of times over recent years. The following text chronologically summarizes some of these occasions.

It was at least 4 years ago when I first informed Tim Farron of the likely impact of CETA (and the ISDS) on climate change, via its likely damaging effect on the climate legislation in EU's Fuel Quality Directive. Ed Davey's written "reassurances" in 2011 turned out to be hollow, and my predictions turned out correct, when the FQD was rendered almost totally ineffective by the CETA and TTIP negotiations tipping the knife-edge battle in favour of the tar sands industry. A LibDem climate failure by Ed Davey, Norman Baker, Sue Kramer and Vince Cable.

In Summer 2014 I provided Tim Farron a briefing document at his request prior to his meeting with Dept BIS on TTIP. This briefed Tim on the ISDS and impacts of TTIP and CETA on climate. Since then – although I've received response letters from Dept BIS they have dodged responding to the climate impact assessment. Link to this document:

Winter 2014-15 the Parliamentary Committee of MPs the Environment Audit Committee published online my submission on the impact of TTIP on climate (as well as FoE's submission on the impact on the environment including climate):

Spring 2015 I was very pleased to hear Tim Farron echoing one of my main advisory statements towards a "red line" on TTIP re climate at one of the hustings: that TTIP should not give primacy to "trade principles" above action on climate change. It is referred to in the above correspondence. So Tim does agree with me on that one thing, but as to whether he may treat it as a "red line" rather than just a personal preference remains to be seen.