

FAO:

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& all other UK Labour MEPs

Dear MEP,

**URGENT: Please vote NO to CETA**

Please vote **NO to CETA** when Labour and S&D MEPs meet to decide a position on CETA, and likewise in the plenary vote tabled for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February, *regardless of what position Labour and S&D might adopt*. Also please persuade your Labour colleagues and other MEPs in the S&D group to do so too. There are so many strong reasons to stop CETA, but for brevity I'll focus on just a few here.

In summary I much agree with [Thomas Picketty on CETA](#): **“The main challenges of our times are the rise in inequality and global warming.”** ... [I would add biodiversity and habitat loss] “From this point of view, Ceta, the EU-Canada free trade deal, **should be rejected**. It is a treaty which belongs to another age. This strictly commercial treaty contains absolutely no restrictive measures concerning fiscal or climate issues. It does, however, contain a considerable reference to the “protection of investors”. ” ... [my bolding]

CETA strongly protects investment by transnational companies, such as with its ICS version of ISDS, but in contrast its text to protect citizens, climate and environment from harmful activities by big business is weak and toothless.

**1. CETA and its ICS-ISDS undermines the temperature goals of the Paris climate agreement.**

For this reason alone CETA must be stopped.

We cannot allow big US oil companies (especially as now empowered within the Trump government), and Canadian mining and fracking companies, to be given the extra powers in CETA's ICS-compatible ISDS, to be able to challenge and undermine climate and environmental legislation. Nor can we allow big US and Canadian multinationals to undermine our legislation to protect our food standards, health and safety, environment, and employment rights.

Please read my briefing to my MP Tim Farron on the ICS/ISDS:

**The strong case against separate corporate court systems (ICS/ISDS)** [www.bit.ly/ICSISDS](http://www.bit.ly/ICSISDS)

**The press release I wrote for the signature handover photographed below** summarizes the threats of an ICS/ISDS in CETA.

**Please represent your constituents:**



Press release: 'Over a thousand local residents sign petition against more legal powers for big corporations' [http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/Press\\_release\\_for\\_handover\\_of\\_ICS-ISDS\\_petition\\_on\\_Friday\\_21oct16.pdf](http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/Press_release_for_handover_of_ICS-ISDS_petition_on_Friday_21oct16.pdf)

**CETA would protect the tar sands industry's desired expansion** by means of export to the EU and elsewhere, which would undermine the Paris Agreement. The negotiations towards CETA and TTIP have already resulted in the dilution of the climate legislation within EU's Fuel Quality Directive to ineffectiveness, and CETA if ratified would make it much harder to re-instate the legislation's aim to reduce the carbon emissions associated with transport fuels. Furthermore, President Trudeau has recently approved the expansion of the tar sands via pipelines for export, including the Keystone XL pipeline and others too. There is no way we should approve CETA with a government that is ignoring the impact of tar sands expansion on climate and using CETA to further such polluting desires.

It's not just CETA's ICS-ISDS: "Regulatory cooperation" via CETA would result in North American transnational corporations having a stronger influence on EU regulations that protect us and our environment. Also the Canadians don't want to respect the EU's precautionary principle and CETA does not protect this important concept.

**2. CETA is the opposite to "progressive"** in the sense used by people genuinely concerned with social justice, and as pointed out by the [OPINION statement of The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs](#): CETA "would contribute to widening the gap between unskilled and skilled workers thus **increasing inequalities and social tensions.**" ... "... such SMEs will be exposed to the full force of competition from large North American transnational corporations **thus endangering the 90 million jobs** (67% of total employment) that they are providing." ... But Cecilia Malmstrom appears to define "progressive" differently – as shown in the attached or appended jpg's.

The European Trade Union Federations including EPSU, in [their joint briefing on CETA](#) also conclude that "**CETA is not a progressive and fair trade agreement**", and "ask you not to consent in the plenary vote on 15 February to CETA's ratification".

**3. On human rights**, UN human rights expert, Alfred de Zayas states: "CETA is incompatible with rule of law, democracy and human rights."

**4. ...** Here are some more reasons:

# 8 reasons to say "no" to CETA:

1:

CETA empowers corporations to sue governments over measures to protect the environment, health & workers

2:

CETA threatens public services

3:

CETA increases inequality

4:

CETA's labour & environmental protections cannot be effectively enforced

5:

CETA makes Canada and the EU more vulnerable to financial crises

6:

CETA undermines efforts to boost sustainable agriculture

7:

CETA endangers the right to privacy & data protection

8:

CETA hampers much needed policy-making in the public interest



WeMove Europe @wemoveEU · 2h

@MJRodriguesEU The @CNCDH says #CETA "sacrifices human rights for commercial interests". Say no to this regressive deal! #CETATuesday

Rectangular Spin

I could write many pages against CETA! But I hope the above is convincing enough.

If you need more sources, I have compiled numerous studies on CETA here: [www.bit.ly/CETarefs](http://www.bit.ly/CETarefs)

This compilation includes summaries from numerous groups who conclude against CETA.

Finally – I hope you have read Jude Kirton-Darling MEP's blog post: [Why I Would Vote Against CETA](#).

Yours sincerely,

Henry Adams

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

**Climate red lines for TTIP and CETA: [www.bit.ly/CLIMATEredlinesTTIPCETA](http://www.bit.ly/CLIMATEredlinesTTIPCETA) <<<<**

*On next page: screen-grabs re OPINION statement of Committee on Employment and Social Affairs*



Cecilia Malmström @MalmstromEU · 58m

I welcome the strong support for #CETA in @EP\_Trade vote this morning. CETA is a modern, progressive agreement with close partner and friend

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Henry Adams

@henryadamsUK

.@MalmstromEU @EP\_Trade CETA is definitely NOT "progressive" - or have you re-defined "progressive"?

[flickr.com/photos/henryadams](https://www.flickr.com/photos/henryadams/15111111111/) ... #CETA

European Parliament

2014-2019



Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2016/0205(NLE)

8.12.2016

## OPINION

European Parliament

2014-2019



Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2016/0205(NLE)

8.12.2016

## OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on International Trade

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part (10975/2016 – C8-0438/2016 – 2016/0205(NLE))

As to wages, evidence shows that the agreement would contribute to widening the incomes gap between unskilled and skilled workers thus increasing inequalities and social tensions. What is more, sizable redistribution effects concerning national income are projected, for the EU amounting to a 0.66% increase in favor of capital owners, thus further deepening social dislocations.

The agreement contains no single chapter with specific measures to support SMEs. There are currently 20.9 million EU SMEs (93% with fewer than 10 employees), but only 619 000 export outside the EU. In the liberalized environment created by CETA, such SMEs will be exposed to the full force of competition from large North American transnational corporations thus endangering the 90 million jobs (67% of total employment) that they are providing.

Despite the fact that CETA contains a special chapter on Trade and Labor there is a clear disparity between the levels of protection envisaged for investors and for labor interests and rights. The privileged status accorded to investors with the ICS system stands in sharp contrast to the consultations mechanism, envisaged for protecting labor interests and rights.

Furthermore, Canada has so far not ratified the ILO Convention on Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining and a system of sanctions on cases of infringement of labour and social rights and regulations is still lacking.