

Corporations will profit, people will lose

EU - USA „Free“ Trade Agreement: The **TTIP Agreement** (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) and its Consequences

Behind closed doors the EU and the USA are seeking to create a free trade zone through a comprehensive agreement. But TTIP has less to do with trade than with asserting corporate power. Under the cover of free movement of goods, social welfare could be dismantled and parliaments' ability to enact legislation could be massively limited; moreover, the democratic constitutional rule of law could be undermined.



Corporate Power instead of Democracy

The public first learned about the strictly secret negotiation positions held by the European Commission via leaked documents. The business lobby, on the other hand, influenced the majority of the content. Parliaments would only be able to look at the agreement once negotiations have ended – at that point they would only be able to say „yay“ or „nay“.

Corporations attack standards

Tariffs are one aspect of the negotiations. But the focus is on principles and legal regulations seen as „barriers to trade“ by corporations aiming to make a profit. That leaves us not merely threatened by the oft-cited bleach-soaked chicken, hormone-injected meat, GMOs, but also fracking. At risk are many things that are more fundamental: principles such as food sovereignty and safety; regulations that protect the environment, consumer and health; regulations of financial services, of public services and the promotion of arts and culture; provisions protecting workers' rights and data protection.

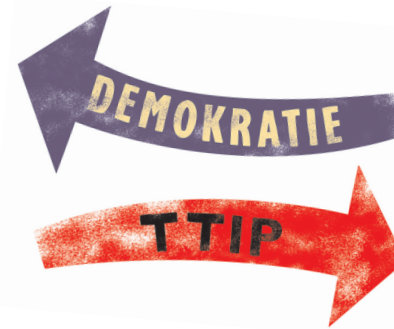
Corporations seek to weaken parliaments

The chapter on investor-state-dispute-settlements (ISDS) will establish how foreign corporations can enforce their interests permanently: if businesses see their profit expectations shrink through policy actions, they may take their case to an international board of arbitration. Here, instead of ordinary courts, highly paid private trade lawyers decide cases behind closed doors. There are no possibilities for appeal, and billions in restitution payments come out of tax money. TTIP is planned as a „living agreement“ that will continue to develop after negotiations are concluded. A transatlantic „regulatory cooperation council“ made up of bureaucrats and representatives from business is supposed to be given a formal voice in the drafting of laws, even before the legislative process in the parliaments has begun.

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Attac calls for resistance now!

The free trade ideology is the central component of the EU's foreign trade strategy. TTIP is not the only attempt to dismantle social welfare. This is also happening in the negotiations concerning CETA with Canada or TiSA, the trade in services agreement. TTIP and other agreements do not pave the way to solving economic and environmental crises; they are all milestones on the way to an unjust world and to „market-conforming democracy“. Together with people from Europe and the USA we are committed to STOPPING the negotiations.

(<http://bilaterals.org/?-TTIP->)

Our alternative: A just and environmentally sound world trade!

Attac demands a fundamental shift in trade policy. The needs of people and the protection of the environment must serve as guiding principles in the EU's trade policy. A European alliance of about fifty trade and environment organizations has developed principles for an alternative trade policy. (alternativetrademandate.org)

We demand:

- Stop TTIP negotiations immediately!
- Make public negotiation documents on trade and investment agreements always and immediately!
- No corporate super-rights - existing agreements must be changed!
- Trade and investment policy must serve the public interest and preserve the environment!

Take action!

- Get informed! Check out the website of your national attac-chapter (<http://www.attac.org/en/Stories/ttip-resistance-now>)
- Share the information about TTIP with friends and acquaintances, the media and politicians! We recommend our TTIP-Video: www.attac.de/ttip-spot

www.attac.org | www.attac.de/ttip



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