



DISARM THE SECRET CORPORATE DEALS



EUROPEAN GREENS ARE STANDING AGAINST THE
CORPORATE CAPTURE OF EU TRADE TALKS.

JOIN THE FIGHT.

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The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Citizens across Europe and the US are waking up to the threats associated with corporate deals like TTIP, CETA & TiSA. Since the Snowden revelations, Greens have strongly resisted efforts to start TTIP negotiations, which present yet another assault on our democracies. Green parties all over Europe took a clear standpoint in the European Elections that this TTIP agenda is not in the interest of people in Europe and the USA. On ACTA, we won the battle. Now join us in our fight to disarm these secret corporate deals.

BEWARE WHAT LIES BENEATH

1. A race to the bottom: As tariffs between the EU-US are already low, TTIP will focus on reducing the standards that multinationals have deemed 'burdensome'. This deregulatory wish list includes our regulations for the environment, food and safety, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, as well as financial services.

(1) American agri-business wants the EU to lift the bans on hormone-beef, chlorinated-chicken and GMOs, which will impact our agriculture standards. (2) European financial services are trying to undermine new US financial regulation. This regulatory race to the bottom does not benefit citizens on either side of the Atlantic.

2. Way of life at risk: In both TTIP and TiSA, high-quality public services are under threat from aggressive liberalisation. US 'predatory' for-profit health or education providers could undermine national services. Our privacy and digital rights are also being traded away just for the sake of free data flows and corporate profit.

(1) Health services like the NHS in the UK are at risk of further privatisation. (2) Exemptions on services of public interest, like water services, could be undermined, leading to further privatisation.

3. Secret backroom talks: Negotiations have continued in secret since mid-2013. Access to key documents is limited to only a handful of MEPs and Member State representatives in Brussels. Evidence shows that 93% of preparatory meetings for TTIP were held with industry representatives. Citizens on both sides of the Atlantic have no access to any key texts, despite the profound effects these deals will have on their lives.

4. Exaggerated benefits: Proponents continue to say that TTIP is the answer to Europe's on-going economic woes, and will create more jobs and growth. Yet the Commission's own impact assessment says some sectors will 'be shedding workers' and any benefits won't be felt until after 2027. There are no guarantees that the effects of TTIP will always be positive for different regions and sectors in Europe and the US.

5. Exclusive corporate rights: under the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) multinationals will be able to sue governments for passing laws that will affect their future profits. Only corporations can bring a case to court. Neither citizens nor their governments can sue under ISDS. This could become a regular reality for European countries, with the US owning more than 50,000 subsidiaries in the EU that could have access to this mechanism.

(1) Companies like Philip Morris have already used these private arbitration courts to sue countries for legislating for plain cigarette packaging. (2) Germany was sued for billions by a Swedish energy company for phasing out nuclear energy.

6. Threat to democracy: TTIP is already creating a 'cooling effect' on EU decision-making. Key legislative proposals, such as minimum environmental criteria for our fuels, introduced by the Commission before talks started, have been disrupted or shelved in order to facilitate negotiations with the US. The deal also envisions a continuous 'living agreement' that will allow corporations to screen future legislation before it is even brought to national parliaments.

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