

STOP TTIP

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. Or the EU - US "Free" Trade Area.

Notice that this title does not pretend to involve the populations.

It is being "negotiated" in secret by scores of corporate lawyers and representatives from the unelected EU Commission. Almost no one represents the people of Europe or the United States.

The news media, for the most part, hardly ever mention it and do not promote public discussion or inform the public of the implications inherent in such "Free" trade areas.

If passed into law it would set the scene for an investors' charter.

It would also mean a major loss of sovereignty for all member states of the EU. We would lose power to regulate GMOs, pesticides, foodstuffs, employee rights, privatisation, fracking, &c.

Enacting any law, for instance, to protect the environment or in the interests of public health, would be subject to challenge from corporations that might lose revenue as a result. The challenge would be decided remotely by a committee of corporate lawyers. Many such challenges have been made under the rules of NAFTA and CAFTA, **resulting in states having to pay corporations not to poison their citizens**. Implementation of the North American Free Trade Area, for instance, resulted in the immediate destruction of small farms in Mexico when cheap (subsidized) US corn was dumped on the market there.

Don't believe the glowing reports of these "Free" trade agreements you may find on official web sites. Instead, an excellent source of properly researched material can be found on the Public Citizen web site. It documents the disasters that these agreements have brought to ordinary people of the countries involved. (see <http://www.citizen.org/Page.aspx?pid=1328> Free Trade analyses.)

Despite the media blackout, many people are waking up to the fact that they are being sold out by unelected officials of the EU Commission and, in one month, over 800,000 signed the stop-ttip petition which is a European Citizens' Initiative. However, the EU Commission has refused to register the petition which suggests there are shenanigans in progress to deny ordinary people a voice. This decision is being challenged in the courts.

A link explaining the Initiative is - <https://stop-ttip.org/what-is-the-problem-ttip-ceta/>

The link for the petition is - <https://stop-ttip.org/sign/> and contact details are as follows.

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Bank account details for donations:

Name of account holder: Stop TTIP

Name of bank: Bank fuer Sozialwirtschaft

IBAN: DE86700205000008870777

BIC: BFSWDE33MUE

Also write/email to all your MEPs, your MP and members of House of Lord who might be sympathetic. Spread the word.

"The richest one percent of the world's population now controls 48.2 percent of global wealth, up from 46 percent last year. Hypothetically, if the growth of inequality were to proceed at last year's rate, the richest one percent for all intents and purposes would control all the wealth on the planet within 23 years." (Andre Damon)