The #noTTIP Times

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

Hands off our environment!

Hands off our democracy!

Hands off our food!

Hands off our public services!

noTTIP.org.uk
The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a comprehensive free trade and investment treaty currently being negotiated in secret between the European Union and the USA. If it goes through, TTIP will be the greatest transfer of power to transnational capital that we have seen in a generation.

The intention to launch TTIP negotiations was first announced by Barack Obama in his State of the Union address in February 2013, and the first round of negotiations between the European Commission and US officials in July of the same year. Since then, the negotiating teams have met regularly every two months, aiming to sign the agreement by the end of 2015.

According to the US negotiating agenda, TTIP would go on to create new market opportunities for US companies and government procurement contracts to compete from transnational corporations, threatening to introduce a new wave of liberalisation in key sectors such as health and education and to ‘lock in’ privatisations where they have already happened.

Most worrying of all, TTIP seeks to grant foreign investors a new power to bypass democratic and due process in negotiating and agreeing trade deals. This is contrary to the European Commission’s own admission that TTIP poses an “affront to our democratic rights.”

The movement against TTIP is growing. The teaching unions are also joining the resistance, including both the NUT and the UCU, which passed a motion in June 2014 that the TTIP must be stopped. TTIP is a huge threat to public services and our democracy. We need to give more exposure to these alarming facts and to explain them!

WHAT IS TTIP?
The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a secret agreement. Nothing that we know about TTIP is so alarming that it cannot be exposed. It was first announced in September 2013 by Barack Obama and European Commission President José Manuel Barroso but has been fought in secret ever since. The word historic is often abused – but the TTIP negotiations mean it is not.

TTIP is a secret agreement. TTIP means giving control of our health, social services or further and higher education to transnational corporations. The US is already pressuring the EU Commission to bring four of the most basic principles of democracy in our health, social services or further and higher education to an end by being overruled by commercial interest.

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10 REASONS YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT TTIP

01 A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY
If agreed, TTIP would give corporations the power to sue governments over decisions that could harm their future profits, undermining democratic decision-making made in the public interest.

02 A THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES
TTIP will create new markets in public services such as health and education, leading to greater liberalisation and privatisation. It would also make it very difficult to bring these services—as well as our energy and water—back under public control or renationalise them.

03 A THREAT TO FOOD SAFETY
Through a harmonisation of food safety regulation, EU food safety standards would be lowered to US levels. This would remove EU restrictions on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), pesticides and hormone–treated beef.

04 A THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT
TTIP would see EU environmental regulations being harmonised and reduced to US levels, allowing a US–style fracking boom in the UK and elsewhere in Europe.

05 A THREAT TO THE CLIMATE
With strong investor rights, TTIP would allow corporations to sue governments for bringing in new policies to leave fossil fuels in the ground.

06 A THREAT TO WORKERS’ RIGHTS
Workers’ rights could be reduced to US standards and businesses could relocate to US states and EU countries with the lowest labour standards.

07 A THREAT TO PERSONAL PRIVACY
Leaked documents indicate that TTIP could be used to reintroduce central elements of the Anti–Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), which was rejected by the European parliament after popular protest. This could force internet providers to spy on their customers.

08 A THREAT TO FINANCIAL CONTROL
TTIP is set to remove many of the new financial regulations (such as banking safeguards) that have been introduced since 2008 to prevent a future financial crash.

09 NEGOTIATED IN SECRECY
While corporate lobbyists are playing an integral role in negotiations, the public have been shut out. All negotiators must sign nondisclosure agreements. There is no access to the draft text of the agreement—even for MPs—so most of what we know is from leaked documents.

10 A DANGEROUS BLUEPRINT FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD
If TTIP is agreed, countries in the global south will come under huge pressure to apply TTIP standards to avoid losing trade. The business lobby are upfront about their aim of creating “global convergence toward EU–US standards.” This would see free trade policies forced on poorer countries, that they have had no part in negotiating.
TTIP: Yes or no, another race to the bottom?

With tens of the predicted gains from TTIP expected to come from the remov- 
al regulatory barriers between the EU and US this is justiﬁed concern about 
what this means for the EU’s more strin- 
gent regulation.
The UK has made it clear in no uncertain terms that they consider the 
US-Japan precautionary approach to regula-
tion a signiﬁcant trade barrier, and are 
concerned that US-Japan safeguards and regulatory standards governing sectors such as food, teaching and the 
environment in a line with a more closely monitored their own.

So where do we believe that TTIP 
will end any doubt? Well, as they 
say it will. And advocates have been 
throughout the TTIP debate now trying to 
prove it. MP Ken Clarke, for example 
was won in the Guardian 
-52 in the last autumn.

Take the effort of hope that the TTIP 
will have on the UK economy. Accor-
ding to the UKTI (UK Trade In-
crease in exports of goods and ser-
ices is hard for TTIP to be worth 
a 50 per cent surge a little.

Ignoring the fact that, we know 
increasingly in recent years is a lead-
ship in decision making, 
and one in which the EU is 
also included as a major player.
The UK government to provide this 
factual information, and to ask 
their citizens to produce their ‘ambitious’ scenario 
projected to display to the European 
Commission’s Directorate-General on Trade 
Growth, jobs and prosperity: 

What’s not to love?

With the chilling effect of TTIP al-
ready apparent, the EU Commis-

sion’s assurance ring hollow.

One thing is certain. If we are to 
expect the world to be supportive of 
TTIP, then it is not for the purpose. 
TTIP advocates can’t have it both ways. EU regulatory 
measures will be signiﬁcantly weakened, putting the 
environmental and our health and safety at risk, or, in short, according to their own mod-
ern view, we may well scrap the whole thing.

The ﬁrst thing to point out is that 
this tax billion per annum, a huge impact on the EU economy, is laugh-
ably small. In GDP terms we are talking about a 
paltry extra 0.04% growth per annum.

This is where it gets interesting. 
CEPR estimate that around 80% of the 
predicted gains from TTIP negotiations. 

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The US government of EU-Canada in 
2011, the government of Canada 
announced that it would terminate 
its trade relationship with the EU. 

In May 2015, the German government 
announced that it would terminate 
its country’s nuclear power programme 
in the year 2017. The decision was a 
response to a court ruling that banned 
its German counterparts from the 
utility from burning nuclear fuel. In 
addition, the ENSF committee of the 
European Parliament, a resolution against the 
treatment of meats with baclic acid 
was approved due to intense lobbying by the 
Commission. M.P. De Bethune from the 
committee had the following to say:

“We can’t get serious public service of 
the Commission’s Directorate-General in 
Trade come in and urge me, ‘please, please, 
don’t do this little bit, let it be known 
otherwise we will have to trust ar 
stead of the negotiation’.

What about this very 
protocol? With TTIP's 
section a line and 
the line already done things 
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Now is the time to raise our voices on TTIP
Take action on 12 July

Behind closed doors, the EU and US are planning the biggest corporate power grab in a decade. If agreed, the EU-US trade deal (TTIP) would grant corporations the power to sue governments, threatening to lock-in the privatisation of our schools and NHS.

Rules that protect workers, the environment, food safety, digital rights and privacy would be undermined, with harmful industries like fracking and GM technologies encouraged.

This is a deal that would have devastating and irreversible impacts on our society. But we are being entirely shut out of the decision making process. Negotiations are shrouded in secrecy. Anyone taking part must sign nondisclosure agreements. There is no access to the draft text of the agreement—even for MPs.

If ever there was an agreement that politicians and big business wanted to push through on the quiet, this is it. But we won't let them. As politicians and lobbyists meet in secret, the international movement to stop TTIP is growing. Bringing together farmers and trade unionists, environmentalists and privacy campaigners, new and diverse coalitions are emerging in opposition to TTIP. Protests are gathering pace across the EU and US, with a mass arrest of 250 protesters—including MEPs and political candidates—at the last round of negotiations in Brussels.

On Saturday 12 July, just two days before the next round of negotiations on TTIP, people around the UK are coming together to say: hands off! From Brighton to Bradford, Cardiff to Cambridge, Sheffield to Swindon, many actions are planned. Hundreds of people have pledged to take creative action 'with a few surprises' in central London, meeting outside the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, 1 Victoria Street at 12pm. Find out about your nearest action at: noTTIP.org.uk

Now is the time to take action. The negotiators are working against the clock. For the US this agreement must be concluded by early 2016 to avoid running up against the presidential election. We can prevent that happening.

President Obama has already been refused special powers to negotiate the deal through congress. The European Commission has been forced to hold a public consultation. In the UK, MPs and MEPs who support TTIP are on the back foot and more and more people are becoming clued-up on the threat we face. We are winning the argument. Now, we must raise our voices.

On 12 July, NHS campaigners, anti-fracking groups, major trade unions, local food growers and many more (see the list of supporters) will be taking to the streets together. This is the beginning of a broad and exciting new UK campaign, part of an international movement with the power to defeat this agreement and strengthen the position of the many against the few.

Join us!

The Alternative Trade Mandate

There are alternatives to corporate trade deals like TTIP. The Alternative Trade Mandate believes that European trade and investment policy must foster co-operation, solidarity and sustainable development. It can and must be an instrument for the equitable distribution of the world’s wealth by giving people access to resources, goods and services which are needed for the fulfilment of their needs.

Read more online: alternativetrade mandate.org

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#noTTIP

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