

Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership

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With thanks to the Trade
Union Group for their help.
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What is TTIP?

The Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a free trade deal currently being negotiated between the United States and the European Union. If agreed, it will be the biggest ever international trade deal – it will have a global impact.

Proponents claim TTIP is needed to remove regulatory barriers for businesses trading between the EU and US, but in reality these barriers are already low. The deal seeks instead to further liberalise and privatise public services and water down our employment, social and environmental rights – all so businesses can increase their profit-making.

Our concerns

Our overriding concern is that this agreement will prioritise the profits of big business over the rights and protections of working people. Wild projections on the jobs and growth TTIP will generate remain unsubstantiated and past experience shows us we can expect just the opposite.

Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)

Under this mechanism, companies would have the unprecedented right to launch billion pound lawsuits against various levels of government if they curb the scope for company profits by legislating in the public interest.

This will have huge implications on the ability of elected governments and local and public authorities to act in the public interest, and on the high-levels of quality, safety, affordability, user rights and universal access to our public services. The threat to our NHS is particularly serious.

If TTIP is passed in its current state, for example, energy companies could sue a Labour government if an energy price freeze led to a detrimental impact on their business. The same applies with repealing the Health and Social Care Act or bringing the Royal Mail into public ownership.

This section of the agreement was pushed for by our current Tory government.

Rights at work

The US does not have a good record on workers' rights. It has signed up to only 14 of 190 International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions and has not ratified even the most basic Conventions on rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining.

24 out of 50 US states are so-called "Right to Work" states, where no agreement between trade unions and employers is allowed.

TTIP could also lead to increased unemployment and social dumping as EU companies relocate to the US or elsewhere with lower standards, and competition is intensified in already struggling sectors like the motor industry, manufacturing, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

US Republicans could push for labour rights to be sacrificed, meaning domestic legislation on the right to organise, to strike, to collective bargaining, health and safety etc. could all be targeted.

Minimum standards

Harmonisation rarely means 'levelling up' and our generally higher EU minimum standards risk being watered down to lower US levels.

Concerns over food production and the use of GM crops have come under the spotlight in recent years. The US also refuses to match flagship EU policies on climate change and dangerous chemicals (of the thousands of

For more information

Trade Union Group of MPs full briefing:

<http://tinyurl.com/kszg6sm>

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GMB Politics **Policy briefing**

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