

TTIP update for Scottish activists

April 2016



We're keen to hear from you about whether this is useful to you – and if you have suggestions for improvements or additions. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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April action checklist

- Email your local Holyrood candidates and call on them [to oppose TTIP and CETA here](#)
- Question your MSP candidates about TTIP and CETA at local hustings events, [and ask them to sign the pledge](#)
- Organise a local activity or join the action in Glasgow against dodgy trade deals on April 23

Holyrood elections

Email your local MSP candidates about TTIP and CETA

The new Scotland Against TTIP website has an e-action to MSP candidates, ahead of next month's Holyrood elections, asking them to sign the pledge against TTIP and CETA. Please email your local Holyrood candidates and persuade them to sign the pledge. Filling in your postcode [on this page](#) will take you to an e-action with a list of your local candidates for you to contact.

It would also be great if you would take the pledge along to any local hustings you are going to, and ask the candidates taking part to sign. You could then take a photo of them [which we will add to our gallery](#). You can upload the picture yourself to the gallery [or email them to the office](#).

For some A3 copies of the pledge, [email Jane](#)

You can [download a copy of the campaign pack from here](#), with full instructions or [contact the office](#) to receive a hard copy through the post.

Holyrood elections, political parties and TTIP

Most party manifestos for the Holyrood elections have not yet been published, but ahead of May 4 here are a few bits and pieces that we know about party lines with regard to TTIP and CETA:

SNP suggests 'TTIP-lite'

While the SNP opposes any sort of corporate court system in TTIP and CETA, and outgoing First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has continued to press the Prime Minister to ensure the NHS is exempt from TTIP; the party has so far been unwilling to oppose these deals outright. At our fringe event at the SNP conference in March, their Westminster spokesperson for trade and investment, Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh MP talked about the party's support for the idea of a 'TTIP-lite'. The SNP membership at the fringe event was clearly unhappy with the party's position on TTIP: when the audience was asked how many of them opposed TTIP, pretty much everyone present put their hands up. [Read Liz's blog to find out more about what happened at the fringe event](#)

Both Alyn Smith MEP and Ian Hudghton MEP voted against including an Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) in TTIP at the only vote by the full plenary of the European Parliament on TTIP last summer.

Scottish Labour and Labour MEPs

Scottish Labour party members voted to oppose TTIP outright at their Scottish conference in October, but the UK Labour party has not yet come out in complete opposition to the trade deal. David Martin MEP, one of our six Scottish MEPs, did not vote against including investor state dispute settlement mechanism (ISDS) in TTIP at the European Parliament last year. In a recent interview

online he showed his support for the reformed corporate court system – the Investment Court System (ICS), talking about how delighted he was that it had been included in CETA. [Watch the film here](#)

On his own website too, he describes how happy he is that ISDS has been replaced by ICS in CETA and [that ICS is 'very close to what we demanded'](#)

Labour MEPs David Martin and Jude Kirton-Darling (an English MEP) wrote a letter to the Independent at the end of March stating that the Labour party has set a number of red lines for the TTIP negotiators that would 'protect our standards, rights and public services, exclude private investment tribunals and ensure democratic scrutiny.' [Read the full letter here](#)

David Martin plays an important role as the only Scottish Labour MEP on the INTA (trade) Committee and spokesperson for the Socialist and Democrats group at the European Parliament on trade.

Our other Labour MEP, Catherine Stihler and every other UK Labour MEP voted to oppose ISDS in TTIP at the European Parliament plenary meeting on the trade deal last year.

[Please write to David Martin MEP to express your concerns about the inclusion of an Investment Court System in CETA](#)

Liberal Democrats

The Scottish Liberal Democrats have nothing in their pre-election materials that mentions TTIP. The UK Liberal Democrats are broadly supportive of TTIP, with some caveats. Their one remaining UK MEP, whose constituency is in Southeast England, voted in favour of the motion to include ISDS in TTIP at the European Parliament last year. In their general election manifesto last year the party said it would continue to support the TTIP negotiations but 'only support an agreement that upholds EU standards of consumer, employee and environmental protection, and allows us to determine how NHS services are provided'. [Read War on Want's general election summary of the parties on TTIP here](#)

Conservative Party

Of course, the current UK government is fully behind the introduction of TTIP and CETA with David Cameron saying in 2014 that he wants to 'fire rocket boosters' under TTIP to speed up its progress. The only Scottish Conservative MEP, Ian Duncan, voted in favour of including ISDS in TTIP at

the European Parliament vote on the trade deal last year.

However, Peter Lilley MP (Minister for Trade and Investment in the early 1990s) has spoken of his concerns over TTIP at the Westminster parliament, and also in the media. [He wrote a blog post about it here](#)

Scottish Green Party

The first party to completely oppose TTIP, the Scottish Greens have published a pre-election policy paper on Scotland as a global citizen that states that the party is unequivocally opposed to TTIP and stands 'shoulder-to-shoulder' with the Europe-wide movement opposing TTIP. It also states that 'if efforts to prevent this retrograde legislation from passing through the European Parliament fail, Green MSPs would pursue measures to ensure that it never takes effect in Scotland'. [Read the Scottish Greens policy paper on this](#)

UKIP

Scotland's one Scottish UKIP MEP David Cockburn voted against the ISDS motion in TTIP at the European Parliament last year and has called the trade deal a 'corporatist stitch-up'. However, many of the UKIP MEPs did not vote at the plenary meeting of the European Parliament to vote on TTIP. The UKIP Holyrood manifesto has been published. It includes a pledge to protect the NHS from TTIP by excluding it from the trade deal, but does not pledge to oppose TTIP or CETA in their entirety. Global Justice Now wrote a blog after the vote on '[why we shouldn't let the fight against TTIP become a platform for UKIP](#)'

RISE

The new alliance party of the left, RISE are completely opposed to TTIP and CETA.

Negotiating process

European Commission

The EU Commission has recently made public some more texts from the TTIP negotiations, including the EU's proposals on regulatory cooperation, and on agriculture and geographical indicators. [You can read them here](#)

[Friends of the Earth Europe has carried out a brief analysis of these texts here](#)

European Parliament

The INTA (trade) committee at the European Parliament discussed the latest negotiations on CETA and TTIP at their last meeting. [You can watch the meeting here](#)

UK parliament

The UK parliament has published a briefing paper about procedures for EU trade agreements and other external agreements. [The section on TTIP looks at public and parliamentary access to the negotiating texts.](#)

Parliamentary questions on TTIP suggest the deal would hit Scotland hardest

New information from the UK government exposes a serious threat to Scotland's sovereignty from TTIP. Global Justice Now asked Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh to ask a question in parliament about whether the Scottish government would pay the legal costs and compensation for an ISDS claim brought against the UK for action taken or laws passed by the Scottish government. The written answer from the UK government's minister for business, innovation and skills reveals that, under TTIP, the Scottish government would have to rely on the UK government to defend legal challenges from US trans-national companies over its policy decisions, but would have to pay the fine if the UK government lost the case.

Successive Scottish governments have passed stronger legislation on the environment, public health and public services than their Westminster counterparts. Indeed, Scottish government policy on nuclear power or fracking stands in complete opposition to Westminster policy. Would the Scottish government really want the UK government fighting its case for example, if the UK government was sued because the Scottish government chose to ban fracking in Scotland? [Read more about this in Liz's blog](#)

Activism

Day of Action on dodgy trade deals on 23 April

The STUC have called for a day of action on dodgy trade deals on April 23 which is being supported by the Scotland Against TTIP coalition. An action in Glasgow on that day will be co-ordinated by the STUC. If you would like to take part please contact [Dave Moxham at the STUC](#) or [Cat Boyd](#).

If you'd rather do something locally, however large or small, then that'd be great too. You could link it to the candidate pledge, or do something

completely different. [And if you want support, please contact Cat.](#)

We'll aim to get some national media coverage for the day, and can also help local groups get local media coverage too.

Barcelona TTIP free zones event

There is a conference happening in Barcelona on 21 and 22 April for Mayors and Councillors of places that have voted against TTIP, as well as local activists.

The first day is aimed at Mayors and Councillors. If there are councillors trying to get their council to take such a step, they can be invited as well. If you have links with local councillors or officials who you think might be interested in going along, please [email Guy](#) in the Global Justice Now London office, and he will send a formal invite out to them.

The second day of the conference is aimed at activists and civil society. If you would like to attend, [click on this link](#) although the deadline given is 10 April. The agenda for the second day looks really good, with discussion on how to engage small businesses and farmers, how to extend the TTIP free zones to include CETA and how to engage with activists in the US and Canada.

Global Justice Now is encouraging people to go along to this event, but can't offer any travel subsidies.

If you have any questions about this, [email Guy in the London Global Justice Now office.](#)

Latest action from local Stop TTIP groups

Jean Kemp from the St. Andrews TTIP Action Group and Paul Robison from the Dundee gave talks to the Commonweal groups in Angus, and in Perth and Kinross recently. This has prompted both Commonweal groups to begin lobbying their councils to become TTIP free zones. The St. Andrews TTIP Action group held a CETA demonstration outside the building where Labour MEP Catherine Stihler was giving a lecture on fairtrade. They met the MEP at the lecture and spoke to her about CETA for at least half an hour. She has promised to meet with the group again ahead of the CETA vote at the European parliament.

Global Justice Glasgow will be supporting the TTIP day of action in Glasgow on April 23. Both the Dundee Stop TTIP group and Global Justice Ayrshire are planning stalls in their local areas for the day of action. The Ayrshire group is holding a stall in Saltcoats town centre from 10.30am – 12

noon and then in Irvine from 12 noon – 1.30pm. They would be grateful for help from others in the area. If you want more details contact Arthur: 07826127759

TTIP group members are also doing a great job of keeping the conversation on TTIP going in the National newspaper. You can write to the paper: letters@thenational.scot

Articles and blog posts

Climate Roadblocks: how new trade deals would give fossil fuels more powers to undermine our climate protections. [Link to the report produced by the Sierra Club](#)

Materials

New CETA action postcards

Global Justice Now has produced an action postcard for people to write to their MP asking them to oppose CETA and call for a vote on CETA in the UK houses of parliament. If you would like to order a pile of postcards [contact the office](#)

TTIP prayer pack

A Christian, faith-based resource pack on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership for churches.

<http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/resources/ttip-and-trade-justice>

Taxes on Trial

Briefing by Global Justice Now about how TTIP and CETA will make it harder for governments to pass strong tax laws to reign in corporate tax avoidance

Updated

[Global Justice Now general TTIP briefing](#)

Older briefings and materials:

Flyer for Scottish Stop TTIP groups

A leaflet for local [Stop TTIP groups](#) to use that gives information about all three of the huge trade deals

currently being negotiated by the EU: TTIP, CETA and TiSA (Trade in Services Agreement).

#NoTTIP 4-sided A5 Global Justice Now leaflet

Leaflet with the basics on why we are opposing TTIP, featuring George Osborne and David Cameron in corporate-sponsored racing driver outfits. An A3 leaflet is also available. [Please order from the office](#)

[Race to the bottom: Regulatory Cooperation in TTIP](#)

[General CETA briefing](#)

[TTIP: The new EU-US trade deal that puts Scottish democracy in danger](#)

TTIP banners

We have a couple of banners which you're welcome to borrow. They're both 4m x 1.2m and are lightweight, with eyelets on each corner. One says 'No to TTIP, stop the corporate power grab' and the other says 'Scotland against TTIP'.

If you'd like to borrow any of our banners, or order any of the materials listed please get in touch. Email Jane or phone 0131 2432730.

Local TTIP groups across Scotland

[Stop TTIP Aberdeen](#)

[Global Justice Ayrshire](#)

[Stop TTIP Dundee](#)

[Stop TTIP Edinburgh](#)

[Global Justice Glasgow](#) (who do regular TTIP actions, linking in with 38 degrees and the trade unions)

[Stop TTIP-Highlands](#)

[St. Andrews TTIP Action Group](#)

[Stop TTIP Orkney](#) (no facebook page)

[Scotland Against TTIP](#)

Take action

To find out how you can help tackle corporate power and become part of a movement for real change visit www.globaljustice.org.uk or call 0131 2432730.



Global Justice Now campaigns for a world where resources are controlled by the many, not the few, and works in solidarity with social movements to fight injustice. We used to be the World Development Movement.

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