

TTIP update for Scottish activists

June 2015



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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Important dates

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| 6 Oct | Self organised ECI petition on TTIP & CETA completes its year |
| 10 Oct | Day of action on TTIP and CETA |
| 30 Nov-11 Dec | COP21 (UN Climate Talks) Paris |
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Parliamentary Updates

TTIP at the UK Parliament

An Early Day Motion (EDM) on TTIP, sponsored by Labour, Conservative, SNP, Plaid Cymru and Social Democratic & Labour Party MPs has been put down at Westminster. An EDM is a motion calling attention to a particular issue, and can lead to a debate in parliament on the matter.

As we publish this update, the EDM has been signed by 28 MPs, including 12 SNP MPs. Please write to your local MP and ask them to sign EDM 146. [Link to the EDM and signatories here](#)

TTIP in the European Parliament

On June 10, the much awaited debate and vote on TTIP at the European Parliament was due to take place. The debate was on a resolution agreed by the INTA (trade) committee, based on their report on TTIP. The committee had to work through 900 amendments to the resolution – the number giving some indication of how controversial this trade deal is. Disappointingly, the socialist bloc (including David Martin MEP of the UK Labour Party) voted for a final resolution that supported ISDS – albeit a reformed version.

The debate and vote on the TTIP resolution was

cancelled at the last minute. In a decision that was testament to the extent of the public outcry against TTIP, European Parliament President Martin Schultz postponed the vote on TTIP, probably until September-time.

Although ostensibly due to the number of amendments to be debated (over 100 were to be debated by the whole parliament), it seems clear that the socialist bloc leadership in particular feared losing control, with many MEPs in the socialist bloc threatening to vote against the resolution. So there would have been a real possibility of the only vote on TTIP at the European Parliament resulting in a resounding 'no' to the trade deal. Although this was a non-binding vote, the Parliament will ultimately need to ratify the deal, and a clear 'no' vote would make the final ratification of TTIP increasingly unlikely.

The resolution now goes back to the INTA (trade) Committee who will discuss how to deal with the more than 100 amendments, and whether to send the resolution back to a meeting of the full parliament for debate.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in the US Congress

Trade justice activists in the US continue fighting to stop the fast tracking of trade deals including TPP and TTIP through Congress. Members of the House of Representatives have been inundated by civil society emails and phone calls, causing Obama to yet again lose the overall vote on the fast track bill.

TPP is a mega-trade deal like TTIP and CETA. Fast track is a bill that will allow the contents of trade deals like TPP and TTIP to remain secret, and stop the Senate and the House of Representatives from being able to debate or amend these trade deals.

Now Obama has delayed another vote on fasttrack for six weeks, buying time to persuade the House that fast track really is a good thing for US citizens. Without fast track, negotiations on TPP and TTIP can only continue at a snail's pace. And it is looking increasingly unlikely that Obama will succeed in getting the fast track bill through Congress.

TTIP in the Scottish Parliament

The TTIP motion in the Scottish Parliament by Green MSP Patrick Harvey is now supported by 39 MSPs. The motion criticises TTIP as a threat to democracy, calls for greater transparency in the negotiations, and calls for ISDS to be removed from the trade deal.

Supporting members are from the SNP, Labour Party and the Green Party – there are no Liberal Democrats or Tories listed. Christina McKelvie MSP, Convenor of the European and External Relations Committee that recently ran an inquiry into TTIP, has signed the motion. However, only two others of the seven committee members have signed up to the motion. If your local MSPs have not signed the motion, please continue to encourage them to do so.

TTIP is still on the agenda of the Scottish Parliament European and External Relations committee and we expect them to discuss what they may do next at a meeting this month.

Activism

TTIP assembly at Global Justice Now conference

Activists from across Scotland as well as the rest of the UK came along to a TTIP assembly in early June, to jointly come up with some ideas and plan some specific action on TTIP in Scotland in the coming months. The assembly committed to taking action across Scotland in October as part of the day of action on TTIP, and also began planning for a possible mass lobby of Scottish MPs. The Aberdeen Stop TTIP group spoke about their plans for a TTIP summer school in Aberdeen for activists that will take place in late August/September.

A national working group for local activists was also set up that will continue planning and also interact with the Scotland Against TTIP coalition. If you would like to become a member of the working group, [please contact Liz](#)

ECI petition reaches two million

While MEPS were debating at the European Parliament whether or not to vote on TTIP on June 10, European citizens were making their feelings about TTIP and CETA known with the European Citizens Initiative (ECI) petition reaching two million signatures. This is a new record: no other ECI petition has achieved such a high level of public support. The petition completes its year in October – so there's still plenty of time for us to reach three million signatures! [Sign the petition here](#)

Local authorities against TTIP

Global Justice Now and UNISON have jointly launched a campaign to support local councils across the UK to pass motions declaring themselves "TTIP-free zones".

A number of local councils across Britain have already passed motions opposing TTIP. Their concerns include the fact that TTIP could prevent local councils from making procurement choices from local goods providers. In December 2014, Glasgow council unanimously passed a motion expressing its concerns about TTIP. A motion has also just been submitted to City of Edinburgh Council by the Greens and will be debated at the full Council meeting on June 25.

The TTIP-free zone campaign site has launched online on www.ttipfreezone.org.uk with lots of materials to help you persuade your local council. It'd be great to get some more local councils in Scotland to declare themselves TTIP-free zones! [Please do let us know](#) if you're keen to have a go and would like any help with this.

Scotland hosts giant TTIP pencil!

'Stop TTIP', which is a coalition of civil society organisations across Europe opposing the trade deal, has a giant inflatable pencil that is touring around encouraging people to sign the Europe-wide petition against TTIP and CETA. Following interest from Stop TTIP groups across Scotland, the TTIP pencil will now tour Scotland in July, visiting Glasgow, Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Aberdeen and the Highlands. More information on the tour nearer the time. If you'd like to get involved, contact [Global Justice Now](#) or phone 0131 243 2730

New film by Artists Against TTIP

A new coalition: 'Artists Against TTIP' has just launched a film about TTIP that features Juliet Stephenson and Vivienne Westward. [You can view the film here](#) Please 'share' on social media and se where you can.

Materials

NEW

Local Authority briefing

This briefing considers why local authorities need to oppose TTIP and includes a draft motion for use by local Councillors.

Briefing, poster, and draft motion is available from www.ttippfreezone.org.uk

TTIP local groups flyer

Global Justice Now in Scotland has produced a non-branded A5 flyer explaining what TTIP and CETA are, with a space at the bottom for local groups to leave contact details/details of their next meeting.

This flyer has been produced specifically for local groups to use to help them publicise their local group and local action on TTIP.

If you would like us to send some of these flyers to you, [please email us](#) or phone 0131 243 2730.

OLDER

NoTTIP Times, edition 3

The third edition of the NoTTIP Times newspaper has now been published. We have a big stack of the newspapers in our office so if you need some, [please contact Jane](#) and we will send you some copies.

[You can look at the third edition online here](#)

Briefing on how TTIP might impact Scotland:

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

Hard copies of the ECI petition (for stalls):

<https://stop-ttip.org/signature-lists/>

TTIP banners

We have a couple of banners which you're welcome to borrow. They're both 4m x 1.2m and

like to borrow either of them for a local event, or have an idea of where one could be hung to get a great photo, then please don't hesitate to get in touch. [Email Jane](#) at Global Justice Now.

Recent interesting blogs and news articles on TTIP

TISA, the Trade In Services Agreement, is another of the mega-trade deals that has been even more shrouded in secrecy than TTIP and TPP until now. But it has the potential to be far more damaging to our public services than either TTIP or CETA. [Read about what the recent Wikileaks tell us about TISA here](#)

[An article about the campaign against CETA \(Canada – EU trade agreement\), arguing that the fight to stop it is just beginning](#)

[Common Dreams site argues that TPP \(and TTIP\) are not trade deals, and we should stop describing them that way](#)

[More detail on what happened at the INTA committee vote on TTIP at the end of May](#)

[Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate Economist, opposes TTIP](#)

Local TTIP groups across Scotland

There are local 'Stop TTIP' groups springing up across Scotland. Here are links to the ones we know of, with their facebook links. Please let us know if we've missed any!

[Stop TTIP Edinburgh](#)

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

[Stop TTIP Aberdeen](#)

[Stop TTIP Dundee](#)

[St. Andrews TTIP Action Group](#)

[Stop TTIP-Highlands](#)

[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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