

TTIP update for Scottish activists

August 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.

Contact: Jane Herbstritt on jane.herbstritt@globaljustice.org.uk 0131 243 2730

Parliamentary Updates

TTIP in the European Parliament

On July 8, the European parliament finally voted on the TTIP report from the INTA (trade) committee. This was an opportunity for the European parliament to state its position on TTIP. Unfortunately, the results did not go in our favour. The parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of TTIP, and although they rejected the inclusion of ISDS in the trade deal, they voted instead for a reformed version of the corporate courts that we are calling 'ISDS-lite'. The majority of Scottish MEPs voted against ISDS-lite (four out of six). However, David Martin MEP, who sits on the trade committee and is the MEP responsible for coordinating trade policy across the Socialist and Democrat group of MEPs at the European parliament, was the only UK Labour MEP that voted in favour of the amendment. [Read about his reasoning for doing this.](#)

Fortunately, this vote was non-binding, and was only a position statement. However, it is not the strong message we hoped the parliament might give to the EU negotiators. One positive outcome for us is that, in rejecting an unreformed ISDS in TTIP, the parliament is also rejecting the unreformed corporate courts system that is included in CETA, the EU-Canada trade deal. This might make it difficult for the European parliament to ratify CETA when it is given the opportunity early next year. We'll be campaigning more strongly on CETA this autumn, and will have resources available soon.

The vote does give us some idea as to how MEPs might vote when they are asked to ratify TTIP (possibly at the end of 2016). [Find out how MEPs voted on ISDS-lite](#)

The INTA (trade) committee has now moved on to looking at TiSA (the global deal on trade in services) and has published a working document that

considers the role of the European parliament on TTIP, how they can consult about it, and how they can improve it. [Read it here](#)

We plan to have some campaign resources available on TiSA later in the year.

TTIP at the UK Parliament

Early Day Motion 146 on TTIP has now been signed by 80 MPs. The majority of signatories are SNP MPs. As we write, only 7 SNP MPs have yet to sign the motion. The one Scottish Labour MP, one Scottish Liberal Democrat MP and one Scottish Conservative MP are all yet to sign the Early Day Motion. If you are in the constituency of any of these MPs please urge them to sign up. [The full list of signatories to EDM 146 is here](#)

Well done to the St Andrews TTIP Action group who've been running an excellent letter-writing campaign and keeping tabs on who's signed up. [See their list here](#)

The Scotland Against TTIP coalition has also written to all Scottish MPs urging them to sign the EDM. Let's keep the pressure on and see whether we can get a full house from the SNP MPs once they get back from summer recess on Sept 7!

Tasmina Ahmed Sheikh MP (SNP) led an adjournment debate at the House of Commons on TTIP the day after the vote at the European Parliament. [Read the transcript here](#)

The Houses of Parliament library has produced a new briefing paper on TTIP (July 2015). [Read it here](#)

TTIP in the Scottish Parliament

The Scottish parliament is now in recess until August 30. At their last meeting before recess, the European and External Affairs committee discussed TTIP. The European Trade Commissioner,

Cecelia Malmstrom had replied to a letter the committee had written expressing their concerns about the deal, and the Committee discussed her response. They were not completely happy with her reassurances that public services will be exempt from privatisation under TTIP. The UK parliament had not responded to the Committee's report and letter on TTIP and they agreed to follow this up. After recess, the Committee plans to meet with Scottish MEPs and if possible Trade Commissioner Malmstrom in Scotland. [View the official report of the meeting here.](#)

Christina McElvie MSP (SNP), Chair of the European and External Relations Committee [wrote about TTIP in the Daily Record](#)

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

Unfortunately, the US Congress finally voted in favour of fast track, meaning that TPP (the mega trade deal between the US and Pacific countries like Japan and Australia) can be fast-tracked and Congress will now only have one vote to ratify or reject the trade deal.

The good news is that the movement against fast track and TPP is huge. In just four months, US citizens made 2.6 million phone calls and wrote more than 32,500 letters to their political representatives calling on them to oppose the fast tracking of this trade deal. The trade unions in particular are now mobilised against TPP, and will continue to fight the trade deal.

Activism

Speaker tour on TTIP and CETA

Global Justice Now is organising a UK-wide speaker tour on TTIP and CETA during the first week November. One of the reasons for the tour is to improve people's knowledge of CETA, the trade deal between Canada and the EU, which is due to be ratified by the European parliament early next year. But the speakers will also consider neo-liberal trade deals more generally, as well as updating people about action opposing TTIP across Europe. The speakers will be Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians; Yash Tandon, Ugandan trade expert and author of *Trade is War*; and Nick Dearden, Director of Global Justice Now.

The tour will have one stop in Scotland, in Dundee on Sunday 1 November (times and venue tbc). More details about the event in future updates.

Days of action on TTIP

38 Degrees has called a day of action for activists on TTIP for the 22 August. [If you would like to take part, go to their website.](#)

Stop TTIP, the European-wide network opposing TTIP and CETA, has called a European-wide day of action on the 10 October, just a few days after the year-long ECI petition on TTIP ends. We hope you will help to organise and take part in a Stop TTIP stall, rally or other action in your local area on 10 October. More details about action planned in future updates.

National Coordinating group for local campaigning on TTIP

Just to remind you that there is now an email list for people involved locally in campaigning on TTIP who want to plan action nationally with others across Scotland. The group was set up at the TTIP Assembly in Glasgow this June. We hope it will prove useful for you all in the lead up to the 10 October day of action to share ideas and let other groups know what your plans are. If you would like to join the email list, [email Jane at Global Justice Now](#) in Scotland.

Stop TTIP banner coming to your city

We would like to put together a photo montage in advance of the day of action on October 10, showing the resistance to TTIP across the cities of Scotland. It would be great to include a photo of your city in the montage. We would like to send you one of our Stop TTIP banners for you to take a photo with TTIP campaigners holding the banner with a landmark from your city as a backdrop (so that it's clear to anyone viewing the photo whereabouts the picture was taken). [Please email Jane](#) if you would like to take part.

TTIP trip to London

The St Andrews TTIP action group are planning a trip to Westminster to lobby two key Scottish MPs on TTIP and would welcome anyone else who'd like to go with them. They've set up meetings on the morning of Tuesday 20th October with Stephen Gethins MP (SNP Westminster spokesperson on Europe) and Tasmina Ahmed Sheikh MP (SNP Westminster spokesperson on TTIP). And they hope to set up a photocall while they're there with all MPs who've signed EDM 146. For more information, or if you'd like to go along with them, [then please contact Jean.](#)

New Stop TTIP Edinburgh group website

The Stop TTIP Edinburgh group have created an excellent new website, with responses from all Scotland's MEP on TTIP collated in one place. View it here: <http://stop-ttip.today/>

Make Scotland a TTIP free zone

In July, Edinburgh became the second city council in Scotland to pass a motion against TTIP. A good number of councils across the UK have now passed similar motions, and it would be great to get more councils in Scotland behind this campaign.

There is a website with a map of all the councils who have passed an anti-TTIP motion, as well as resources to help campaigners lobby their local council for a similar motion. [View it here](#)

Global Justice Now is very happy to support you to lobby your local council about this. [Email Jane](#) if you would like our help.

Materials

Local Authority briefing

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

TTIP local groups flyer

This non-branded 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.

NoTTIP Times, edition 3

[Please contact Jane](#) and we will send you some copies. [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

Banners are 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 either, please [email Jane](#) at Global Justice Now.

Recent interesting blogs and news articles on TTIP

[Interesting BBC World Service documentary about the history and role of Investor-State Dispute Settlements in trade agreements](#)

[Caroline Lucas MP on the role of the UK in forging unfair trade deals](#)

[More information about what is in TiSA – the global deal on trade in services being negotiated behind closed doors](#)

[Herald Scotland analysis of the latest round of negotiations and the 'public noise' around the negotiations in Europe and Scotland](#)

[The revolving door: greasing the wheels of the TTIP lobby](#)

[Public media and utilities could be crushed by TPP](#)

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.

Global Justice Now, Thorn House, 5 Rose Street Edinburgh EH2 2PR
t: 0131 243 2730 e: thornhouse@globaljustice.org.uk w: www.globaljustice.org.uk