

TTIP & CETA update for Scottish activists

October 2016



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October action checklist

- [Join the 'Stop CETA' rally outside the SNP conference in Glasgow on 15 October](#)
- Plan a stall or event during CETA week: 17 – 23 October
- [Write to your MEPs about CETA: fill in an CETA action card or take part in the e-action](#)

Important dates

17 – 23 October: CETA week of action called by EU-wide Stop TTIP network

18 October: extraordinary meeting of the EU Council to discuss CETA, Luxembourg

27 October: EU-Canada summit and ceremonial signing of CETA by Junker and Trudeau

5-6 Dec: TISA negotiations

Early 2017: MEPs vote on whether to pass CETA or not – this final vote will determine whether CETA will come into force or not.

Trade deals negotiating process

CETA negotiations update

Huge demonstrations in opposition to CETA and TTIP are continuing across Europe. In mid-September, news of protests of more than 300,000 people in seven different German cities even made it into the UK media, with 80,000 people demonstrating in Berlin alone. EU council members met in Slovakia the following week to discuss resuscitating TTIP and ensuring CETA stays on track. Again, they were met by anti-CETA demonstrators.

Unfortunately, the anti-CETA campaign also suffered a set-back in September when Germany's Labour party – the SPD – voted at conference to support CETA, meaning that their MEPs will likely vote for CETA next year. In order to keep members of the German Labour party and social democrat

MEPs on side, the European Commission have agreed to add an 'interpretative declaration' to CETA in order to clarify aspects of the treaty they don't like (including the corporate courts). However, [the Council of Canadians have reported that this interpretive declaration will make little improvement to the treaty.](#)

Details on when EU ministers will meet to finalise CETA before it goes to the European parliament are hard to ascertain. Early this month, the EU Council is due to meet to agree that the deal will be provisionally implemented next year. Then on the 18 October we believe the EU Council will make its final decision on CETA, before a signing ceremony with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on 27 October. After this (probably early next year), CETA will go to MEPs for a final vote.

TISA negotiations

The 'Trade in Services Agreement' is another of the mega trade deals being negotiated by the EU (on behalf of its members states) and 22 other members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at the moment. The super-privatisation deal currently involves 50 countries, but ultimately the aim is for the agreement to be made binding on the whole world through the World Trade Organisation. So even outside the EU, the UK will be affected by this deal. TISA negotiations are moving fast, and a report by Reuters this week talks about the deal concluding at the next round of negotiations on the 5- 6 December. While this seems unlikely given the number of countries involved and the small number of negotiation rounds so far, we definitely need to keep a close eye on the process. Recently, Greenpeace Netherlands leaked some of the TISA documents. [You can read the documents and an explanatory briefing on the TTIP leaks website here.](#)

European parliament

The trade committee will meet again to discuss CETA on 12 October.

Westminster parliament

CETA briefing

The UK parliament has produced a briefing on CETA, which has some useful information about the process of implementation and how Brexit might affect this process.

Labour party calls for an ethical trade policy

At the Labour party conference in Manchester, the Shadow Minister for energy and climate change pledged a commitment to a just trading policy that would be about 'dignity, sovereignty, high quality jobs and the public good.' Barry Gardiner MP said that deals like TTIP, CETA and TiSA would not tackle climate change, and were an attack on British sovereignty. [Read the full speech](#)

However, Scottish Labour party MEP David Martin still refuses to align with Labour party policy, publishing articles like the recent one in the Parliament magazine where he argues that 'CETA is not TTIP and should be considered on its own merits'

[Make sure you email him and let him know you feel differently about CETA.](#)

Scottish parliament

The Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee are currently taking evidence on the implications of Brexit for Scotland. Global Justice Now gave some written evidence on CETA to the committee as part of the inquiry. The oral evidence so far has only included some very peripheral references to CETA.

Activism

Join the 'Stop CETA' rally outside the SNP conference, 15 Oct, SECC Glasgow

Global Justice Glasgow have organised a rally outside the SNP conference at the SECC in Glasgow on Saturday 15 October from 8.30 - 10am. It will feature a banner with the principles of an ethical trade policy, and three corporate rats holding 'I love CETA' placards! We are hoping to catch SNP members and politicians as they go into the conference in the morning, as well as the media, to persuade the party to take a stronger

position against CETA. Then, from midday, activists from further afield will take over, holding a stall and a short demonstration at lunchtime. Please support the demonstration: [join the facebook event to be kept up to date with what is happening](#) and please share on social media.

The rally also marks the start of [CETA week](#), called by our European allies with events organised throughout the continent to build momentum against CETA for the coming months.

IdeaSpace

Global Justice Now will be having a stall with CETA materials throughout the SNP conference at the IdeaSpace that has been set up by Common Weal at the Glasgow Science Centre nearby. There are some excellent fringe event and many interesting stalls at the Ideas Space over those three days. Members of the public are very welcome to drop into the space during the three days. [For a programme of events see here.](#)

Tell your MEPs they must oppose CETA!

During October and November we hope that as many people as possible in Scotland will write to their MEPs asking them to stop CETA. You can do this easily either [using our online action form](#) or you can fill in our action postcards. If you would like us to send you a bunch of action postcards to persuade people at your work, your church, or your local area to sign [please email me and we will send you some, free of charge of course.](#)

We would like to hand in the postcards to some of our Scottish MEPs towards the end of November, so please help us to collect as many cards as we can before then!

Fife Council declares itself a CETA free zone

Thanks to the hard work of the St Andrews TTIP action group, last month [Fife Council has become the first council in Scotland to vote in support of a motion opposing CETA.](#) Last year, the council was one of one third of Scotland's local councils to support motions opposing TTIP. Now we are hoping that this first motion against CETA by a Scottish council will lead to more councils following suite. If you'd like help to persuade your council to become a 'CETA free zone', we have a model motion that you can use, and we are also happy to give you any extra help you might need - [please email the office.](#)

Articles and blog posts

Excellent TUFTS University paper on the economic impact of CETA

Map showing how fossil fuel companies will use TTIP and TPP to further their profits.

Local TTIP groups across Scotland

Stop TTIP Aberdeen

Global Justice Ayrshire

Trade Justice Dundee (formerly Stop TTIP Dundee)

Stop TTIP Edinburgh

Global Justice Glasgow

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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