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TTIP negotiations 9th round: Transparency still missing

Monique Goyens, Director General of The European Consumer Organisation said:

"More transparency in the TTIP negotiations is not a mere mantra, void of meaning. It is the deal's 'make or break' element. Do the officials want TTIP to fail for the wrong reasons? We urgently call the US to follow the European Commission's example and publish its negotiating texts. It is also of vital importance that the two sides commit to publishing consolidated texts on an ongoing basis. Allowing civil society's engagement in the process can only add value to the talks".

The 9th round of TTIP negotiations take place in New York this week, but remain dogged by the lack of transparency with regard to several aspects of the discussions:

- Negotiations have produced advanced drafts of 'consolidated texts' on sectors such as food safety. Yet civil society experts have been precluded from access to these texts, thereby blocking constructive, expert contributions or the chance to flag potentially harmful provisions. This lack of transparency creates skepticism over the deal.
- The European Ombudsman initiated an inquiry on the matter and has made a series of recommendations to the European Commission, including: 'The Commission should also inform the US of the need to justify any request by them not to disclose a given document. The Commission needs to be convinced by this reasoning.' Has the European Commission been convinced by US reasons for maintaining the classified status of its proposals despite having already published their own?
- Consumer organisations on both sides of the Atlantic have repeatedly urged the US Trade Representative Michael Froman to release trade talks documents. While Commissioner Malmström has [publicly](#) acknowledged that "consolidated" documents would enhance transparency, Mr Froman continues to shun our call for more transparency.

The 9th round of negotiations take place while the decision to adopt the Fast Track/Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) in the US is imminent. Under Fast Track, Congress' involvement is restricted to an up or down vote on the final bill with no amendments allowed. Fast Track is largely opposed by civil society organisations in the US, including members of the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD), as it delegates Congressional trade authority (power to negotiate trade agreements, draft implementing legislation to change U.S. law, and sign agreements into international law) to the US administration.

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