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The European Parliament sets red lines on TTIP

At today's vote in Strasbourg, Members of the European Parliament adopted negotiating guidelines for the ongoing EU-US trade talks.

The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) welcomes the fact that the European Parliament has set a number of strong limits such as on data protection and financial services for the European Commission, which is negotiating the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on behalf of the EU.

Monique Goyens, BEUC's Director General, commented:

"The time when trade agreements affecting our daily lives can be negotiated unnoticed by the public is over. The European Parliament has assumed its responsibility as the democratic watchdog for trade negotiations, and has set out what kind of deal it will accept.

"Opposition to ISDS continues to grow and will not be appeased with sketchy compromises. The EU and the US should now think twice about whether including extrajudicial tribunals for foreign investors is worth putting the entire TTIP at risk. Rejecting ISDS from this trade deal is the appropriate response to the massive citizen mobilisation against this obsolete and superfluous system.

"Trade can benefit consumers, but today's trade agreements touch on areas way beyond tariff cuts and simplified customs rules. It is crucial that the European Parliament remains vigilant in telling negotiators that consumer safeguards are off-limits."

ENDS

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