

TTIP



Transatlantic Trade Deal and Consumers

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?



The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a free trade deal currently being negotiated between the European Commission and the US government. Its stated aim is to remove trade barriers in a wide range of economic sectors in order to make it easier to buy and sell goods and services between the two partners.

IS THIS A GOOD THING?



A deal done well would mean consumers could be offered a wider variety of products at lower prices. We want negotiators to make a proactive consumer agenda the starting point for this trade agreement, one which should not deliver a reduction in standards, but focus on actual consumer issues such as making imports of personal purchases cheaper or decreasing transatlantic roaming charges.

OR SHOULD I BE WORRIED?



In the EU we believe prevention is better than cure, that's why we apply strict safety rules throughout the production chain. Food not produced according to those same rules should not end up on our plates.



There are substantial differences on both sides of the Atlantic in the regulation of cosmetics; the EU bans 1,377 hazardous chemicals, while the US bans only 11. 'Freeing' trade on cosmetics would not be the solution.



Under current EU laws, consumers have a series of data protections and fundamental rights which do not exist in the US. With personal data high on the agenda of a negotiated trade deal, consumers might see these essential protection standards undermined. That's why we call for data flows to be excluded from the TTIP negotiations.



Granting more power to pharmaceutical companies on pricing and reimbursement decisions could lead to less affordable medicines in Europe. This is being demanded by the industry, but European consumers certainly do not need it to happen.



Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) is a legal mechanism which allows foreign corporations to sue governments before special tribunals comprised of three private arbitrators if they feel their investments are 'endangered' by government decisions. This would include public interest policies on tobacco, obesity, minimum wages and nuclear safety policies. We want ISDS to be discarded from the TTIP negotiations.

WHAT CAN I DO?



Negotiations are being conducted behind closed doors, a method which does not feed trust and prompts cautiousness amongst European citizens. Transparency can help risks to consumer protections to be flagged and addressed early in the negotiating process.

You can call upon your national and European representatives to demand full transparency in the TTIP negotiations now!