

EU/Canada CETA; EU/US TTIP

- **For information:** To the ETUC member organisations
- To The Trade & Globalisation Working Group

Dear Colleagues,

Despite the announcement last October that a political agreement had been reached on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between the EU and Canada (CETA), some areas are still under discussion, notably in respect of investment and labour rights. At that time, the ETUC had denounced the lack of transparency in the negotiations:

<http://www.etuc.org/press/eu-canada-ceta-concludes-etuc-criticism-about-lack-transparency#.UwxtlUpwbc>

We would ask you to contact your governments to press the following issues -which also have a bearing on the TTIP negotiations with the US:

Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS): As you will know, following heavy pressure including from trade unions, the Commission has decided to put this part of the TTIP negotiation on hold and launch a consultation, the details of which will be revealed next month but which we understand will be based on draft texts being negotiated in CETA. We reject the inclusion of ISDS in either CETA or TTIP. We would ask you press your Government to put the discussions in CETA on hold to prevent a fait accompli being established in regards to TTIP.

Workers' Rights: The ETUC has been pressing for an enforcement mechanism to be included in the Sustainable Development Chapter that is envisaged in both CETA and TTIP, covering labour and environmental issues, comparable to the dispute settlement provisions applying to other parts of the agreements. The Commission is resisting our demands though both Canada and US trade agreements do include such mechanisms (though they differ). Again, we would ask you to press your Government to put on hold any agreement with Canada that excludes such a mechanism.

A "Negative list": approach to liberalisation commitments. The CETA negotiations are the first among EU trade agreements in which such an approach is being taken, despite the grave reservations of the European Parliament. Again, we oppose such an approach, and ask you to press your Government to reject its inclusion in CETA and TTIP. The negative list approach poses particular dangers for public services because of a "ratcheting" effect that would undermine any carve-out of specific public services given the blurred and constantly shifting distinction between public and private.

Some of these issues were covered by the General Secretary in her intervention at the EP International Trade Committee:

<http://www.etuc.org/speeches/committee-international-trade-eu-trade-policy#.UwyAhkpwbc>

I hope that you will raise these issues and let us know (Daniele Basso dbasso@ETUC.ORG) of any responses you receive from your Government.

The ETUC Trade and Globalisation Working Group will discuss the issues, among others, at their meeting on 20 March.

Best regards,
Tom Jenkins
Senior Policy Advisor

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