



European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels

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Brussels, 6 July 2015

20 million Education, Health and Public services workers reiterate demands for the exclusion of ISDS and a proper carve out of public services from TTIP

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On Wednesday 8 July you will vote on the position of the European Parliament on TTIP (Bernd Lange report). EPSU and ETUCE representing close to 20 million workers in public services ask you to:

- Unequivocally exclude ISDS from TTIP and therefore vote against the compromise amendment negotiated by President Schulz that essentially will keep ISDS, but give it another name. Reforms of the ISDS mechanism do not solve the fundamental flaws with ISDS. Like the ETUC¹, also EPSU and ETUCE see the new amendment on ISDS as a step backwards compared to the position set out in the draft report of the Parliament's international trade committee. Instead, amendment number 40 should be supported, which makes legal disputes between investors and states subject to domestic remedies and ensures that foreign investors do not obtain any other treatment than domestic investors.
- Ensure that public services are not covered by the scope of the agreement through an explicit carve-out of public services in the core text. This demands the clear and unambiguous exclusion of public services irrespective of how these are provided and funded. Our 20 million members include teachers, educators, nurses, fire-fighters, refuse collectors, water workers, those that take care of children and the elderly, tax collectors and many more. We also ask you to reject the negative listing and the 'hybrid' approach in all forms. European research demonstrates how liberalisation commitments in public services are promoted by 'for profit' private operators, not by Member States or national and European Parliaments.
- Strengthen the labour chapter of a possible agreement, making the signing of the ILO Conventions mandatory and a pre-condition. It is not acceptable that we enter into such an important agreement for hundreds of millions of workers and one of the parties does not accept the global mechanism that provides a minimum level of guarantees. The US has refused to sign fundamental ILO conventions and abide by its rules.
- Reject the Regulatory Cooperation as foreseen. Leaked texts have shown that this would also cover non-central government regulations like of local and municipal authorities, of various regulatory bodies dealing with quality standards, patient and food safety and much more. The consequences could be of very serious character, in particular it would undermine democracy in the EU and US in unprecedented ways. Including the proposed mutual recognition of standards and qualifications for

¹ See ETUC PR 03. July <https://www.etuc.org/press/etuc-calls-meps-vote-against-isds-amendment#.VZZ8vzHxvcu>

professionals such as teachers, nurses and doctors will have grave consequences for quality, transparency and democracy.

EPSU and ETUCE have made the points above repeatedly, directly, together, as part of the ETUC and together with a broad set of other societal groups including local and regional authorities, consumers, environmental and public health groups, anti-poverty campaigners, tax justice advocates, NGOs working on transparency and the digital commons, and many others. As awareness is growing among our members of what this agreement and also CETA and TISA could imply for workers, our families and our communities, so do their concerns and often anger increase, or as a teacher underlined recently at a meeting *"Without public debate in my country, they are trading away democracy in Brussels. My MEP should understand there is no demand for this among the people."*

Dear Member of the European Parliament, without the above guarantees the proposed TTIP will not deliver for workers nor for Europe's citizens.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary



Martin Rømer
ETUCE European Director

EPSU, the European Federation of Public Services Union, represents workers in health and social services, local and regional government, national and European administrations and utilities.

ETUCE, the European Trade Union Committee of Education, represents teachers in all forms and levels of education including primary and secondary schools, vocational education and training, higher education and adult education.

Together we represent 20 million workers. We are both members of the ETUC and recognised as European social partners.