

# TTIP OFF

*Despite not getting even a cursory mention in the recent Programme for Government, the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the US and the EU and its sister agreement The Canada Europe Trade Agreement (CETA), is the most far-reaching trade deal in modern history and will have significant implications for working people and nation states if implemented.*

## **NO DEAL: Why Unions Oppose TTIP & CETA**

Briefing on the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) & Canada Europe Trade Agreement (CETA)



*The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) recently published a briefing document **NO DEAL: Why Unions Oppose TTIP & CETA**. You can read this in full on [www.impact.ie/ttip](http://www.impact.ie/ttip)*

# HERE IS A SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE KEY POINTS

**Investor-State Dispute Settlement:** Gives private corporations the right to sue governments for financial compensation if they believe their rights have been violated, when government actions or policy 'interfere' with their ability to make a profit.

**Public Services:** May open the door for future privatisation of public services due to a 'negative list' approach. This means governments can only fully protect from privatisation the public services that they explicitly list, and all services are open to further privatisation unless explicitly exempted. All new service areas that emerge in the future would not be protected under this agreement.

**Regulatory Cooperation:** TTIP seeks to align regulations and standards between the EU and the US. This means any future or existing socially desirable legislative measure could be deemed a 'barrier to trade' by a secretly established and unelected Regulatory Cooperation Board.

**Labour Standards:** ICTU believe that TTIP will lead to a lowering of labour standards in the EU as the US continues to refuse to ratify core ILO conventions, including those on freedom of association and collective bargaining.

**Balance of Power:** While corporations will be granted access to a special new investment court system which will potentially enable them to obtain billion dollar settlements, trade unions can only seek a 'letter of criticism' from a group of eminent experts.

**Public Policy Restrictions:** The reduction in the space for public policy which TTIP would inevitably bring about, along with the additional constraints for governments striving to provide services or regulate in the public interest, is entirely incompatible with the type of intervention required to address major global challenges such as economic inequality and climate change.

**Lack of Transparency:** Much of the negotiation process for TTIP is highly secretive, with only two trade unionists having access to the negotiating texts, inside a locked reading room where copies cannot be made.

There is a significant amount of work to be done to inform the Irish public of the potential damage which TTIP/CETA will inflict. Despite mass public opposition and protest in countries like Germany and France, a recent Eurobarometer poll showed 71% of ROI citizens are in favour of 'a free trade and investment agreement between the EU and the US'. However, being opposed to TTIP for the reasons outlined above does not equate to being opposed to trade.

*IMPACT will be working with other unions in ICTU to run a comprehensive information campaign and special conference on TTIP/CETA in the coming months. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact campaign coordinator, IMPACT Organiser Joe O'Connor on [joconnor@impact.ie](mailto:joconnor@impact.ie)*

*"Conference believes that the primary purpose of TTIP is to extend corporate investor rights"*  
ICTU Biennial Delegate Conference, July 2015.