



# **The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)**

## **Introduction on EPSU, public services and trade**

**EPSU/ETUI workshop  
7-8 December 2016**



## EPSU/PSI priorities



Social Rights first! Social agenda, social dimension in all policies, support for quality public services and quality jobs

- ✓ End to austerity, public investment in public services / social infrastructure (Greece 6% GDP on healthcare, Latvia 3%)
- ✓ Strengthen workers rights (info and consultation, collective bargaining, right to strike) & organising
- ✓ Financial regulation and progressive taxation - FTT, tax avoidance, EPSU tax campaign to close €1 Trillion tax gap, public CCTB
- ✓ 'Climate justice' and environmental protection – COP 21 Paris / COP 22
- ✓ No further EU liberalisation of public services: TTIP, CETA, TISA trade agreements etc.



# What makes quality public services (QPS)?



# Public services principles

Solidarity	Sharing of costs and risks between people, regions
Universality	Access to services irrespective of status based on needs and rights of users
Continuity	Long-term investment, maintenance of service
Equal treatment	No discrimination, proximity of service
Affordability	Reasonable charges, social / progressive tariffs, limits on profits..
Concertation and democratic control	Social dialogue, user groups, Transparency, monitoring, regulation, evaluation of overall effectiveness

# EPSU strategy on public services – developing policy EU, national, local level

- ✓ ‘Activate’ positive provisions of EU legal framework (Article 9, 14 TFEU, Public Services Protocol, Charter of Fundamental Rights,
  - ✓ ..... *“high level of quality, safety and affordability, equal treatment and the promotion of universal access and of user rights.”*
- ✓ Mainstream public services elements across policies (e.g., public procurement)
- ✓ Protect policy space (e.g., no EU liberalisation of water, exclude public services from trade agreements)
- ✓ Maximise links between EU and national frameworks for public services ([Right2Water](#) in Slovenian Constitution...)

# EPSU strategy on public services - alliance building with users and other sectors

- ✓ Link public services and workers rights – example McDonalds ‘unhappy meal’ campaign
- ✓ Develop the public services network / cooperation and research
  - ✓ Privatization models gone wrong, e.g., bankruptcy of Southern Cross old-people’s home, costs of hospitals, school PPPs...)
  - ✓ Viability of public provision e.g. “*Turning the Tide*” project, remunicipalisation of services (energy, water..)
  - ✓ Current focus on ‘right to health’ / commercialisation of healthcare
  - ✓ Cooperation with confederations, European federations, civil society, employers etc.

# **EPSU strategy on public services and trade (CETA, TTIP, TiSA..) - protecting policy space to develop quality public services**

## **Main points of joint letter opposing CETA (28 November)**

- ✓ More one-way liberalisation of public services
- ✓ Rights for investors to be compensated for 'loss' of future profits
- ✓ No strengthening of labour or environmental protections
- ✓ No evidence of quality job growth
- ✓ More exposure to financial crises
- ✓ Higher drug costs for Canadians (and EU?)
- ✓ Undermining sustainable agriculture
- ✓ Putting into question 'precautionary principle'



# Many reports, brochures, briefings, ...

## 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  
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)

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“Huge impact on health and social services”

## CETA and TTIP

Potential impacts on health and social services

# PUBLIC SERVICES UNDER ATTACK

THE BUSINESS LOBBY HAS ACHIEVED A HUGE SUCCESS AS CETA IS SET TO BECOME THE FIRST EU AGREEMENT WITH AN APPROACH THAT MEANS THAT ALL SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO LIBERALISATION UNLESS AN EXPLICIT EXCEPTION IS MADE.

TTIP, CETA, and the secretive collusion between business lobbyists and trade negotiators

altec CEO EPSU FESFP EGO IGO tni AK WAT



## CETA

KEINE SONDERKLAGERECHTE FÜR KONZERNE



“CETA: a bad deal for citizens”

## DEMOCRACY

“Neither the proposed procedure for the appointment of judges of the Investment Court System nor their position meet the international requirements for the independence of courts.”

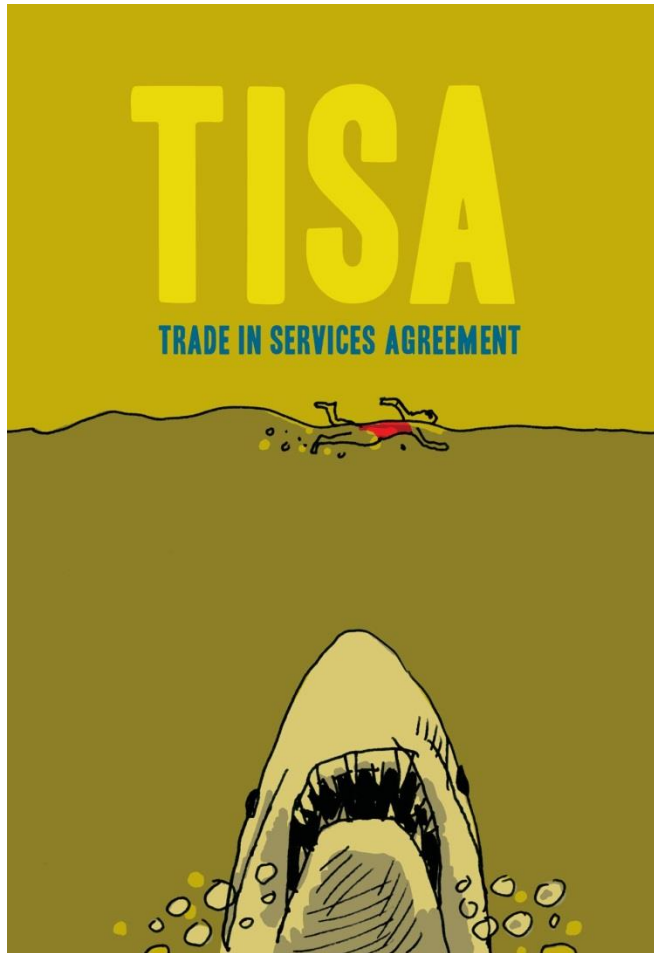
Deutscher Richterbund, Germany's largest association of judges and public prosecutors

TRADING AWAY DEMOCRACY  
How CETA's investor protection rules could result in a boom of investor claims against Canada and the EU





# ... more reports, brochures, briefings



Brochure FNV Netherlands  
on TiSA



## “The great CETA swindle”

**Swindle #1:** CETA protects workers' rights

**Swindle #2:** CETA is a good deal for the environment

**Swindle #3:** CETA's investor rights do not endanger regulations to protect the environment, health and other public interests

**Swindle #4:** CETA protects public services like healthcare and water

**Swindle #5:** CETA establishes an independent court to settle investor-state disputes

**Swindle #6:** CETA will uphold standards to protect people and the environment



**INVESTMENT COURT SYSTEM (ICS):  
THE WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING**

**THE EU'S GREAT CORPORATE  
PRIVILEGE REBRAND**



# EPSU actions all over Europe



Germany ver.di



Lithuanian unions



Latvian health workers



Slovakia KOZSR



Romania FSGAZ



## ... and more actions



Brussels 20 September  
no to CETA demo

Austria AK-ÖGB-DGB



Bratislava 23 September anti CETA demo



# Taking Stock on CETA - Next steps?

- ✓ Trade unions and others have had an influence on CETA's provisions (e.g., on 'public utilities' clause, ETUC on 'Interpretative Instrument')
- ✓ CETA remains problematic: we should continue to argue for rejection in the European Parliament (24 January INTA committee and February plenary) and Member States <https://stop-ttip.org/cetacheck/>
- ✓ Beyond CETA (and TTIP, TiSA) trade unions and others are (re)engaging with trade – ETUC draft resolution, 'Namur declaration') for progressive trade policy in context of shaping globalisation
- ✓ By placing public services firmly in the discussion, EPSU/PSI have also an opportunity to use this momentum to further other demands on public services, at national, European and global levels