

Members of the European Parliament

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Brussels, 3 December 2018

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On 12 December you will vote on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership (EUJEP). EPSU, representing Europe's public service trade unions, expresses its regret that this vote is taking place without a proper assessment of the full impact of the Agreement on public services.

Since the beginning of negotiations in March 2013, EPSU has demanded that any Agreement with Japan protects workers' rights, excludes public services and preserves policy space. We raised concerns about the use of negative listing, which was also used in CETA. In some respects EUJEP is a step back from CETA: Hard-won assurances in CETA for public water or regarding the 'precautionary principle' have not been secured in the EUJEP. On health, education and care services, EUJEP's potential to limit governments' ability to create, expand, and regulate public services, or to reverse (or intervene) in failed liberalisations is of great concern. There are also questions regarding the protection of personal data, especially in the financial services chapter.

While it is welcome that EUJEP does not include an investor protection mechanism, the non-enforceable nature of the Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) Chapter, the over-extensive liberalisation commitments, and the restrictions put on governments' regulatory space make it in our view a poor Agreement. EUJEP will not help the EU shift globalisation in the right direction.

It is ironic that both CETA and EUJEP have been promoted as new and progressive trade agreements when in effect they advance the old, pre-Welfare State, interests of the rich and powerful.

Rather than accepting 'more of the same' trade policy that advances narrow interests, the European Parliament should be demanding that trade agreements advance social progress and ecological responsibility. EUJEP fails to do this by any benchmark and therefore the European Parliament should oppose ratification.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan,
EPSU General Secretary

Encl. [JEF TA: Myths & Facts about the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European union and Japan - report](#)