For a TTIP resolution that puts people, the environment and democracy before short-term profit and disproportionate corporate rights

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

In light of the European Parliament’s ongoing work on a resolution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership TTIP (also known as Transatlantic Free Trade Agreement or TAFTA), we are writing as an EU-wide coalition of 375 civil society organisations who share a deep concern about the various threats posed by the agreement. We represent a wide range of public interests including environmental protection, public health, civil rights, agriculture, consumer rights and protection of food and farming standards, animal welfare, social and labour standards, workers’ rights, migrant rights, unemployment, youth and women's issues, development, public access to information and digital rights, essential public services including education, integrity of financial systems, and others.

We welcome the fact that the European Parliament is forming its opinion on the TTIP and the role that the Parliament has already played in organising democratic public debates on the issue. We call on all MEPs to agree on a strong resolution that makes clear that the European Parliament will reject any future trade or investment agreements that will not serve the public interest and threaten important rights acquired in long democratic struggles in the EU, US and the rest of the world.

For this purpose, we would like to share with you our key demands on the TTIP negotiations, which we developed together with our partners in the US and which were first released in a joint civil society statement in May 2014:

1. Transparency now: all documents relating to the TTIP negotiations, including draft consolidated texts, must be made public to allow for an open and critical public debate on the TTIP.

2. A democratic process to allow for the scrutiny and assessment of the negotiation texts and which would ensure that policies are in the public interest; involves the EU Parliament and debates in national parliaments; and which includes civil society organisations, trade unions and stakeholder groups.

3. No ISDS: any provision containing Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms must be taken permanently out of the negotiations and no other mechanism introduced (including indirectly via other pre-existing or subsequent trade agreements) which grants privileged rights to foreign investors.

4. No regulatory cooperation council: all regulation must be fully in the hands of democratically controlled bodies and processes.

5. No deregulation of standards which safeguard and serve the public interest: EU standards need to be respected and not “harmonised” down to the lowest common denominator. These include social and labour standards, consumer and public health protection, care for the environment including regeneration of our natural resources, animal welfare, food safety standards and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, access to information and labelling, culture and medicine, financial market regulation as well as data protection, net neutrality and other digital rights. Mutual recognition is not acceptable in as far as it undermines democratically-agreed standards and strong safeguards. The precautionary principle must be widely applied.

6. **No further deregulation and privatisation of public services.** We demand guaranteed access to high quality education, healthcare and other public services and the right to choose government procurement that promotes local jobs and local economies, local content, social entrepreneurship, sustainable economics, social considerations and serves the public interest.

7. **The promotion of humane and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and protection of small family farming.**

8. **Public authorities must keep the political power** and structures necessary to protect certain sensitive sectors and safeguard standards important to our quality of life. Internationally-agreed labour and environmental standards must be respected and enforced. The continuous violation of labour standards should be addressed by imposing monetary fines.

9. **No restrictions on international and European human rights standards.**

The little information that has been released – or leaked – about the TTIP negotiations raises **considerable concerns** that our demands are not reflected in the approach the EU is taking. For example:

- Negotiations are happening behind closed doors, without comprehensive and effective public consultation. The **lack of transparency and democratic procedures** makes it impossible for citizens and civil society to monitor the negotiations in order to ensure that public interests are being protected. Business lobby groups are given privileged access to information and opportunities to influence the negotiations.

- The proposed investment protection chapter, particularly the **inclusion of an Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provision**, would give investors exclusive rights to sue states when democratic decisions, made by public institutions in the public interest, are considered to have negative impacts on their anticipated profits. These mechanisms rely on rulings by tribunals that operate outside the national court systems and thereby undermine our national and EU legal systems and our democratic structures for formulating laws and policies in the public interest.

- **The creation of new anti-democratic governance structures and procedures** that aim to ‘harmonise regulations’ like the proposed **regulatory cooperation council** would make the TTIP and other agreements a moving target, “living agreements”, constantly developed in secret by unelected bureaucrats and big businesses. These undemocratic structures threaten to lower important standards and rules designed for the protection of public interests, or prohibit future improvements, regardless of necessity and public mandate.

- Evidence from business and industry lobbying documents reveals that the focus on non-tariff barriers and regulatory convergence is being used to push **deregulation, increased investment guarantees, reinforced intellectual property rights’ monopolies and, ultimately, a race to the bottom.**

We call on you to send a clear and strong signal to negotiators that the European Parliament will **reject TTIP and any other trade or investment agreement going in this direction**, because they would not serve the public interest and because they threaten fundamental rights and freedoms acquired in long democratic struggles.

**Signed by**

AITEC, France  
Health Action International, Europe
Fairwatch, Italy
Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB), Austria
Vereinigung für Ökologische Ökonomie e.V., Germany
Inštitut za trajnostni razvoj - Institute for sustainable development, Slovenia
BI gegen Gasbohren Kleve, Germany
Attac Kreis Kleve, Germany
End Ecocide on Earth, Austria
Global Justice Now (formerly World Development Movement), UK
ATTAC Niederrhein, Germany
Bundesarbeitskammer, Austria
Compassion in World Farming, International – Europe
LobbyControl, Germany
NaturFreunde Deutschlands e.V., Germany
SÜDWIND, Austria
War on Want, UK
Umweltinstitut München, Germany
ALTERNATIVA NORD / SUD PER IL XXI SECOLO ( ANS - XXI ONLUS ), ITALY
Oikos - Cooperazione e Desenvolvimento, Portugal
CIDAC, Portugal
Center for Encounter and Active Non-Violence, Austria
ACEP - Associação para a Cooperação Entre os Povos, Portugal
Zelena akcija/FoE Croatia, Croatia
ASNAl, Germany
highlands and islands against fracking, Scotland
Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft, Germany
BUND Reems/Murr, Germany
LEGAMBIENTE, ITALY
Fracking Free Ireland, Ireland
ATTAC Hungary, Hungary
Stuttgarter Wasserforum, Germany
Rettet den Regenwald e. V., Germany
Medicina Democratica ONLUS, Italy
CCC -Stuttgart, Germany
ATTAC Italia, Italy
Bürgerinitiative Havixbeck, Germany
IBD Initiative Bürger für Demokratie, Germany
CGSP wallonne, Belgium
Fédération des Résistances, Belgium
UNION LUXEMBOURGEOISE des CONSOMMATEURS ( ULC ), LUXEMBOURG
Global Marshall Plan Initiative, Europe
G3W / M3M, Belgium
WEED - World Economy, Ecology & Development Assoc., Germany
Gewerkschaft der Gemeindebediensteten - Kunst, Medien, Sport, freie Berufe (GdG-KMSfB), Austria
Quercus - National Association for Nature Conservation, Portugal
Juridicum Remedium, Czech Republic
Za Zemiata, Friend of the Earth Bulgaria, Bulgaria
Centre for Sustainable Development, Lithuania
SumOfUs.org, International
Vrijschrift, Netherlands
STOPAIDS, UK
Interreligiöse Gemeinschaft für Frieden Stuttgart, Germany
Salamander Trust, UK
NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark, Denmark
Tu Kite Institute, UK
FIAN, Germany
Friends of the Earth Malta, Malta
Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG), Europe
Consejo Ciudadano Podemos Valencia, Spain
Fundacja Strefa Zieleni (Green Zone Foundation), Poland
progetto Sulla Soglia (coop soc Tangram, Rete famiglie aperte, coop soc Insieme), ITALY
Colectivo Sur Cacarica, SPAIN  
Zeroviolenza, Italy  
marxistische linke, Germany  
Comitato Roma 12 per i Beni Comuni, Italy  
AVERT, UK  
Alce Nero S.p.A., Italy  
Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO), Netherlands  
FNME CGT, FRANCE  
Ars Narrandi e.V., Germany  
Small Ones Develop (SmOD), Sweden  
VSF Justicia Alimentaria Global, Spain  
Entrepueblos/Entrepobles/Entrepobos/Herriarte, Spain  
ASiA - Associació Salut i Agroecologia, SPAIN  
Amigos de la Tierra, Spain  
Locale Globale, Italy  
PLATAFORMA RURAL / ALIANZAS POR UN MUNDO RURAL VIVO, SPAIN  
The Irish Doctors’ Environmental Association (IDEA), Ireland  
Réseau Environnement Santé, France  
Susivienijimas Žali. LT, Lithuania  
Coordinamento Nord Sud del mondo, Italy  
May Day, Denmark  
lacasademitia.es, Spain  
ATTAC Bizkaia, Basque Country  
soldepaz.pachakuti, SPAIN  
perUnaltracittà- laboratorio politico, Italia  
Belgique parlons-en, Belgium  
DONNE IN RETE X LA PACE, ITALY  
MENSCHENRECHTE 3000 e.V. (HUMAN RIGHTS 3000), Freiburg, Germany  
Baladre, Spain  
Asociación Paz con Dignidad, SPAIN  
Action for Breast Cancer Foundation, Malta  
CGT Cantabria, SPAIN  
Grupo Renta Básica Andarivel, SPAIN  
Plataforma de Afectado por la Hipoteca de Bizkaia. Kaleratzerik Ez., Bilbao Bizkaia  
Berlin Wassertisch, Germany  
Asociación de Vecinos Ramón Pignatelli, Zaragoza  
Joves d’Esquerra Verda, Catalunya  
ATTAC España, SPAIN  
Center for Environment, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
EUrope NEWnited Serviceteam, Austria  
Asamblea Popular de La Elipa, Madrid  
TERRA LIBERA TUTTI, ITALY  
Asamblea Popular de Puente de Vallecas, Spain  
La Catalunya de totes: en xarxa per decidir-ho tot, Spain  
la Floresta indignada Actúa, La Floresta (Sant Cugat del Vallés)  
asociacion vecinos mostoles, españa-madrid-mostoles  
MWB – FGTB, Belgium  
FeministAlde, Basque Country  
Initiativ Liewensufank, Luxembourg  
ACCI Ó ECOLOGISTA - AGR Ó, SPAIN  
SOCIEDAD CULTURAL GIJONESA, SPAIN  
The Cancer Prevention & Education Society, UK  
comitato acqua bene comune q4 firenze, Italy  
UK National Hazards Campaign, UK  
Social Europe - Front Against TTIP (Malta), Malta  
CUMBRE SOCIAL VASCA, PAIS VASCO - ESPAÑA  
ELA, Basque Country  
Slow Food Deutschland e.V., Germany  
RETS, Spain  
COSPE, ITALY
Keski-Uudenmaan Yhdistysverkosto ry, Finland
European Water Movement, Europe
AHT Gelditu! Elkarlana, Basque Country
EQUO -Andalucía, SPAIN
Anticapitalistas Burgos, SPAIN
Salva la Selva, Spain
Soil Association, UK
Asociacion canaria de economia alternativa, Las Palmas de G.C.
Alterativa antimilitarista.moc Canarias, Las Palmas de G.C.
REDESSCAN -Red Canaria en defensa del sistema público de Servicios sociales, Canarias
Aktion Familienfasttag der Katholischen Frauenbewegung Diözese Innsbruck, Austria
Ecologistes en Acción de València, SPAIN
Asamblea Popular 15M - Tres Cantos, SPAIN
ECOLOGIA I PAU, Novelda, Alicante
AdA Getafe, SPAIN
PowerShift e.V., Germany
Campact e.V., Germany
BI lebenswertes Korbach e.V., Germany
BI Fracking freies Hessen, Germany
Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Paderborner Natur- und Umweltschutzverbände, Germany
European Work Hazards Network, Europe
Collectif Causse Méjean - Gaz de Schiste NON !, France
Intersindical Valenciana, País Valencià
Bürgerbüro Stadtentwicklung, Germany
Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Germany
Abgefrakt Bündnis Weidener Becken gegen Fracking, Germany
Ecologistas en Acción Córdoba, SPAIN
Alliance Against Poverty, Malta
Naturschutzbund Vorarlberg, Austria
Vorarlberger Plattform gegen Atomgefahren, Austria
BI Kein CO2 -Endlager Altmark, Germany
Förderverein Informationstechnik und Gesellschaft, Germany
Ecologistas en Accion Suroeste de Madrid, Spain
SOL - People for Solidarity, Ecology and Lifestyle, Austria
Bürgerenergie-Altmark Gen.schaft, Germany
SIAGRO SL, SPAIN
Buergerinitiative gegen Gasbohren Hamm ( BIGG ), Germany
REDMONTA Ñ AS, SPAIN
CHEM Trust, UK
15M Tomelloso, SPAIN
Mouvement politique des objecteurs de croissance, Belgium
COAG, Spain
Health and Environment Alliance, Europe
Keep Ireland Fracking Free, Ireland
Fair Trade Hellas, Greece
Farms Not Factories, UK
Attac France, France
Afrika Kontakt, Denmark
Plataforma Não Oo TTIP, Portugal
Transnational Institute, Netherlands
Fundacja Kuznia Kampanierow, Poland
Solidary Bulgaria, Bulgaria
Confederación Pirata, Spain
Foundation for Environment and Agriculture ( FEA ), Bulgaria
Attac Deutschland, Germany
Ecologistas en Acción, Spain
Mujeres de Negro contra la guerra -Andalucía, Sevilla, Spain
Stowarzyszenie Niesiolowice-Węsiory Kamienne Kręgi, Poland
Forschungs- und Dokumentationszentrum Chile-Lateinamerika, Germany
Green Institute, Greece
11.11.11.,Belgium
Forebyggelses- og Patientrådet, Denmark
Institute of Global Responsibility, Poland
Milieufedensie, The Netherlands
Werkstatt Ökonomie, Germany
Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, nederlandse sectie, Netherlands
Gewerkschaft Pro-Ge Die Produktionsgewerkschaft, Austria
AUGE / UG - Alternative, Grüne und Unabhängige GewerkschafterInnen, Austria
Haagse Mug, Netherlands
FAIRTRADE Austria, Austria
ÖBV - Via Campesina Austria, Austria
German NGO on Environment and Development / Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung, Germany
European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), Belgium
MUGARIK GABE ONGD, Basque Country
Katholische ArbeinerInnen Bewegung Österreich, Austria
EH . TTIP . EZ, Basque Country
Drustvo za trajnostni razvoj Duh casa, Slovenia
Precários Inflexíveis - Associação de Combate à Precariedade, Portugal
Sindicato do Comércio, Escritórios e Serviços do Minho CESMINHO, Portugal
ATTAC Denmark, Denmark
REAS EUSKADI, SPAIN
CUMBRE SOCIAL VASC, PAIS VASCO - ESPAÑA
Collectif Roosevelt . BE, Belgium
Alliance D19-20, Belgique
UNISON the public services union, UK
Mouvement ouvrier chrétien (MOC), Belgium
NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK, ENGLAND & WALES
Naturefriends International, Austria
Présence et Action Culturelles, Belgique
The Danish Eco Council, Denmark
MPE – HVE, Belgium
Peuple et Culture en Wallonie et à Bruxelles ASBL, Belgique
A Sud Ecologia e Cooperazione, Italy
CDCA - Centro di Documentazione sui Conflitti Ambientali, Italy
MPE – HVE, Belgium
Initiativplattform TTIP stoppen! Oberösterreich, Austria
POUR écrire la liberté, BELGIUM
Kremnica beyond Gold, Slovakia
GLOBAL 2000 - Friends of the Earth Austria, Austria
Asociatia Romania Fara Ei, Romania
Circolo Legambiente Airone Monticello Conte Otto ( VI ), Italy
Both ENDS, Netherlands
TERRA Mileniul III, Romania
OGBL, luxembourg
Tier & Mensch e.V., Germany
Asociatia JUNIOR, Romania
issa - Informationsstelle südliches Afrika, Germany
ded-Freundeskreis e.V., Germany
ATTAC Charleroi, Belgique
Groupe de résistance au TTIP (Charleroi), Belgique
UNITAT CIVICA PER LA REPUBLICA BALEAR, ESPAÑA
ASSEMBLEA REPUBLICANA, ESPAÑA
The Civic Resource Centre / Centrul pentru Resurse Civice, Romania
Fairtrade Lëtzebuerg asbl, Luxembourg
FGTB Wallonne, BELGIUM
No Transnat!, BELGIUM
The Gaia Foundation, UK
FNCTTFEL Landesverband, Luxembourg
Edelvais Association, Romania
Asociatia Romania Vie / România Vie Society, Romania
Observatori del Deute en la Globalització (ODG), Catalunya / Estat espanyol / Spanish state
Feministes en Acció, España
Confederacion General del Trabajo (CGT) España, Spain
Centre Mèdic Naturista, Spain
Uran Kosice STOP, Slovakia
Convocatoria Cívica, Spain
Attac Wallonie, Belgium
Attac Liège, Belgium
FGTB Centrale Générale, Belgium
CALCUTA ONDOAN, Spain
ASOCIACIÓN DIGNITAT I SOLIDARITAT, Spain
Fis Nua, Ireland
Bio-Lëtzebuerg - Vereenung fir Biolandwirtschaft Lëtzebuerg asbl, Luxembourg
Alliance for Cancer Prevention, UK
ESperanto Radikala Asocio Onlus, Italy
CGSLB-ACLVB, Belgium
Generations Futures, France
Anticapitalistas, Spain
Fracking Free Bulgaria, Bulgaria
Greenovate ! Europe E.E.I.G., Belgium
Federación de Servicios a la Ciudadanía – CCOO, Spain
International Department CGTP-IN, Portugal