

TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (TTIP)

APRIL 2015

UNISON Scotland welcomes the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney's response to the European and External Relations Committee Report on the implications of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

In particular we welcome his recognition of the potential risk of TTIP to the NHS and other public services through the Investor to State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) and the commitment to seek an "explicit protection" for the NHS. We also support his statement that the Scottish Government believes that "TTIP should not result in any lowering of regulatory standards".

In UNISON's [written](#) and [oral](#) evidence to the European and External Relations Committee we explained why UNISON opposes TTIP and the other trade agreements currently in the pipeline, such as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with Canada (CETA) and the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) with 23 other countries. Unlike other trade agreements which historically sought to reduce tariff barriers to trade (taxes on imports), these latest agreements seek to liberalise the trade in services, including public services, as well as seeking to protect the rights of foreign investors and to reduce regulatory barriers to trade by forcing through a deregulatory agenda.

Whilst the EU has opened up services in other trade agreements in the past, it has always explicitly excluded public services by negotiating specific protections. These treaties would mean that all services were open to market liberalisation unless a specific reservation was entered and even then, the introduction of "ratchet clauses" could be included which would mean once a service had been liberalised, it could not be reversed.

The investment protection chapters which both TTIP and CETA include are designed to protect the assets of foreign investors. This also includes the ISDS mechanism which would grant companies the possibility to sue the EU or any member states if they believed a legitimately legislated regulation was not in line with the agreement and that it threatened their profits. They can seek compensation through special international arbitration tribunals run by lawyers which have no rights of appeal.

The EU has higher regulatory standards than the US. UNISON is concerned that TTIP would seek to reduce these to the lower US standards. This could affect health & safety, food, environmental protection, public health, as well as employment law, etc. The US does not ratify core International Labor Organisation conventions, on employment law, such as collective bargaining and freedom of association (being able to join trade unions) and many of its states operate anti-union policies. We believe that TTIP will place the EU on a fast track to deregulation.

We are also sceptical that some of the claims made in favour of TTIP and other treaties do not hold up to scrutiny. Recent research indicates that there could be [EU job losses of up to 600,000](#), as well as an [increase in low security jobs](#) with lower wages, more zero hours contracts and decreased benefits.

UNISON Scotland urges the Scottish Parliament to oppose TTIP in its entirety.

<http://www.unison.org.uk/our-campaigns/unison-campaigns/stop-ttip/>

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