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.

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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 - Cooperação 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
ASNAI, Germany
highlands and islands against fracking, Scotland
Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft, Germany
BUND Rems/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
Tuke 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
A$A - 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
soldeapaz.pachakuti, SPAIN
perÚnaltracitá-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
Berliner 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 VASCÁ, PAIS VASCO - ESPAÑA
ELA, Basque Country
Slow Food Deutschland e.V., Germany
RETS, Spain
COSPE, ITALY
Keski-Uudenmaan Yhdistysverkosto ry, Finland
FEDERACIÓN DE ASOCIACIONES PARA LA DEFENSA DE LA SANIDAD PUBLICA, SPAIN
Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Slovenia
Federacion de Asociaciones de Medicus Mundien España, SPAIN
Medicus Mundi Catalunya, Spain
Umanotera, Slovenian foundation for sustainable development, Slovenia
Protestival, Slovenia
AlpeAdriaGreen, international association for nature and environment protection, Slovenia
Slow Food, international (headquarters: Italy)
Health Poverty Action, UK
Zdučenje za promocijo in organizacijo kulturnih prireditve, Festival Sanje, Slovenia
GMB Trade Union, UK
Attac München, Germany
GAIA - Environmental Action Group, Portugal
Društvo gibanje TRS, Slovenia
Stranka za ekosocializem in trajnostni razvoj Slovenije – TRS, Slovenia
Federación de Servicios a la Ciudadanía – CCOO, Spain
Solidarité Socialiste, Belgium
Polish Fair Trade Association, Poland
VSF - Justicia Alimentaria Global, Spain
Emaus Fundación Social, Spain
Solidarnost - za pravično družbo (Solidarity - For Just Society), Slovenia
Mouvement Ecologique, LUXEMBOURG
Kriminaalihuollon tukisäätiö KRITS, Finland
Aseed Europe, Netherlands
TTIP-info network, Finland
Links Ecologisch Forum ( LEF ) - Forum Gauche Ecologie ( FGE ), Belgium
Éxodo.org, Spain
Biodynamiske Forbrugere, Denmark
reusers.salonika, Greece
Gen-ethisches Netzwerk e.V., Germany
Centrum Zrównoważonego Rozwoju, Poland
#NoTTIP, Spain
PARLAMENT CIUTAD À (Grupo Impulsor), SPAIN
15M torrelodones, SPAIN
Grupo de trabajo de Córdoba sobre el TTIP, SPAIN
EKPIZO (Consumer Association the Quality of Life), Greece
Frau&ArbeitGmbH, Austria
Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz e.V., Landesverband NRW, Kreisgruppe Bielefeld, Germany
Drushman Bober - Okoljsko gibanje Dolenjska, Slovenia
Smoke Free Partnership, Belgium
Xnet, Spain
Red de Semillas “Resembrando e Intercambiando”, Spain
CONFEDERACION INTERSINDICAL, SPAIN
Plataforma Andalucía Libre de Transgénicos ( PALT ), Spain
Sindio Ferroviario - Intersindical de Sevilla, Sevilla (Spain)
Društvo Duš časa, Slovenia
CNCD -11.11.11 (Centre National de Coopération au Développement), Belgium
Bürgerinitiative gegen CO2 Endlager e.V., Germany
Initiative for Democratic Socialism, Slovenia
Bulgarian Campaign Against Nuclear Energy, Bulgaria
Lluita internacionalista de Girona, Girona
Asociación de Vecinos de Tres Cantos (Madrid/España), SPAIN
INTER SINDICAL ALTERNATIVA DE CATALUNYA ( IAC ), CATALUNYA
MESA CIUTADANA i D’ENTITATS PER LA PARTICIPACIÓ, SPAIN
Asamblea Cantabra por las Libertades y contra la Represion. LIBRES, SPAIN
ICV - EUiA Girona, Catalunya
Colibri e. V., Germany
WIB Wasser in Bürgerhand, Germany
ARS UNION, Bulgaria
Social center – Varna, Bulgaria
Economía del Bien Común, Spain
FoEE, Belgium
Corporate Europe Observatory, Belgium
11.11.11., Belgium
Forebyggelses- og Patientrådet, Denmark
Institute of Global Responsibility, Poland
Milieudefensie, 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, Germany
European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), Belgium
MUGARIK GABE ONGD, Basque Country
Katholische ArbeinehmerInnen 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 VASCA, 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! Oberoesterreich, Austria
POUR écrire la liberté, BELGIUM
Kremnica beyond Gold, Slovakia
GLOBAL 2000 - Friends of the Earth Austria, Austria
Assiociatia 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
Asiociatia 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 BALEARS, ESPAÑA
ASSEMBLEA REPUBLICANA, ESPAÑA
The Civic Resource Centre / Centrul pentru Resurse Civice, Romania
Fairtrade Lëtzebuerg asbl, Luxembourg
FGTB Wallonne, BELGIUM
No Tranat !, BELGIUM
The Gaia Foundation, UK
FNCTTFEL Landesverband, Luxembourg
Edelvais Association, Romania
Asociația România 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
Sindicato dos Trabalhadores do Comercio, Escritórios e Serviços do Minho – CESMINHO, Portugal
ASOCIACIÓ DIGNITAT I SOLIDARITAT, Spain
Fis Nua, Ireland