



European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz 60  
1047 Brussels

REF. JWG/PC/ak

Brussels, 3 June 2015

**Subject : 20 million Education, Health, Public services workers ask to keep public services outside of TTIP**

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Next Wednesday 10 June you will be asked to vote on the position on TTIP of the European Parliament (Bernd Lange report). EPSU and ETUCE representing close to 20 million workers in public services ask you to:

- ensure that public services are not covered by the scope of the agreement through an explicit carve-out of public services in the core text. Our 20 million members include teachers, educators, nurses, fire-fighters, refuse collectors, water workers, those that take care of children and the elderly, tax collectors and many more. We also ask you to reject the negative listing and the 'hybrid' approach in all forms. Forthcoming European research will demonstrate how liberalisation commitments in public services are promoted by 'for profit' private operators, not by Member States or national and European Parliaments.
- support rejecting the ISDS (investor state dispute settlement) mechanism from the TTIP agreement. The proposed reforms in a recent paper of the European Commission have not yet been developed and discussed. It is hence not acceptable to include vague references in the EP text that imply ISDS could be reformed in TTIP. Moreover, the Commissioner's proposed reforms do not solve the fundamental flaws with ISDS. Opposition to ISDS in TTIP or any other agreement must be unambiguous and clear. A nurse told us at a recent event "*I do not see what new rights workers are getting in this agreement, but I do understand that it mounts to a sort of corporate bill of rights, giving more powers to corporations and further increasing inequality of power in our societies.*"
- strengthen the labour chapter of a possible agreement, making the signing of the ILO Conventions mandatory and a pre-condition. It is not acceptable that we enter into such an important agreement for hundreds of millions of workers and one of the parties does not accept the global mechanism that provides a minimum level of guarantees. The US has refused to sign fundamental ILO conventions and abide by its rules.
- reject the Regulatory Cooperation as foreseen. Leaked texts have shown that this would also cover non-central government regulations like of local and municipal authorities, of various regulatory bodies dealing with quality standards, patient and food safety and much more. The consequences could be of very serious character, in particular it would undermine democracy in the EU and US in unprecedented ways. Including the proposed mutual recognition of standards and qualifications for professionals such as teachers, nurses and doctors will have grave consequences for quality, transparency and democracy.

EPSU and ETUCE have made the points above repeatedly, directly, together, as part of the ETUC and together with a broad set of other societal groups including local and regional authorities, consumers, environmental and public health groups, anti-poverty campaigners, tax justice advocates, NGOs working on transparency and the digital commons, and many others. As awareness is growing among our members of what this agreement and also CETA and TISA could imply for workers, our families and our communities, so do their concerns and often anger increase, or as a teacher underlined recently at a meeting *"Without public debate in my country, they are trading away democracy in Brussels. My MEP should understand there is no demand for this among the people."*

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Without the above guarantees the proposed TTIP will not deliver for workers nor for Europe's citizens.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan  
EPSU General Secretary



Martin Rømer  
ETUCE European Director

EPSU, the European Federation of Public Services Union, represents workers in health and social services, local and regional government, national and European administrations and utilities.

ETUCE, the European Trade Union Committee of Education, represents teachers in all forms and levels of education including primary and secondary schools, vocational education and training, higher education and adult education.

Together we represent 20 million workers. We are both members of the ETUC and recognised as European social partners.

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