



17 MARCH
18:00 | MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES BXL

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What is the best way to discuss one of the most controversial issues on the European agenda? **Put it on Trial!**



The European Movement International has closely followed the path of TTIP developments from the pre-negotiation phase through to the last negotiation round. The status of these debates on the “most discussed trade deal in our times”, propelled us to create an innovative space to allow for a balanced, yet fierce, exchange of opinions from both pro- and anti- protagonists, while also ensuring the direct involvement of civil society representatives as a Jury.

The last (12th) round held in Brussels in February, bore witness to a promised and important acceleration of market access, regulatory cooperation, and rules. The negotiators on both sides committed to conclude the deal by the end of 2016, with the subsequent round scheduled for April. This round was also an occasion for various NGOs, consumer and environmental organisations to voice once again that from their perspective TTIP and CETA are examples of bad policy; the TTIP conference venue was occupied by Greenpeace activists who chained themselves to the building chanting “TTIP dead end trade deal”. On the other hand, we saw a wide range of experts, organisations, businesses, think tanks and officials re-making a point for the positive impact of TTIP as a boost for jobs and growth. From their perspective, TTIP is not only important for economic reasons, but as a projection of our European values on the world stage. The European Commission welcomes criticism on this subject and expresses an aim to convince the unconvinced and opponents. Someone even made a remark that this would be more challenging than actually concluding the negotiations in 2016.



The ongoing controversies on the TTIP indicate the need to maintain a high quality of public debate, where both Accusers and Defenders of the deal can be given a fair platform to defend their stance. This is what we attempted to do on the night of 17 March. **Let the Trial Begin!**



Jo Leinen MEP, President of the European Movement International (@jo_leinen) called the TTIP Trial to order by asking the full room of citizens to decide whether TTIP should be declared “guilty” – thus constituting a bad deal for Europe, or “not guilty” meaning that it will provide jobs, growth and economic progress for Europe.

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Monica Frassoni @monicafrassoni · Mar 17

A nice way of debating a hot issue! Organise a trial! On #TTIP guess which side I am on! @europeangreens



European Movement @EMInternational

@monicafrassoni on the "accusers' side" - what we are afraid of in #TTIP

Our experiment night and sword-crossing begun with opening statements by our respective Accuser and Defender in Chiefs. **Monica Frassoni**, Co-Chairperson of the Green Party (@monicafrassoni) gave her testimony on behalf of the prosecution, pointing out the things we are most afraid of in TTIP. The first issue was transparency and the capacity of civil society to have a say at all, second - the content of the agreement itself.

Hiddo Houben, TTIP Deputy Chief Negotiator, acted as a Defender in Chief, and opened his statement with a question, what kind of globalisation the European community wants to see and with whom as a main partner. Then a rethorical question followed, “if not with the US, with for whom should this be?” He also compared TTIP discussions to a computer upgrade – you do not really want it to happen, but you do know it is something you need in order to move forward.

You Retweeted



AmCham EU Trade @AmChamEU_Trade · Mar 17

Hiddo Houben: "Globalisation is happening. The EU and the US must shape it. If we don't, others will."



You and EU TTIP Team

The Accusers’ case then proceeded to bring forward witnesses who shed light on some deeply concerning aspects of the agreement. **Jeremy Wates**, Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau (@Green_Europe) countered the arguments of the Commission’s representative. He stated that “TTIP is primarily about deregulation” and thus threatens the safety net of legislation. **Michel Cermak** (@Mich_ka), CNCD-11.11.11 and StopTTIP coordinator, went a step further, presenting an opinion that “TTIP is guilty”. According to Michel, being anti-TTIP does not mean opposing US, globalisation, or trade as such; whilst "the future of Europe is not TTIP, but the 3.3 million citizens who are against it”.

When it became time for the defence to speak up **Marietje Schaake** MEP (@MarietjeSchaake) focussed her response on the accusers' remarks on the deregulatory role of trade agreements in strengthening the rule-based system: "We believe a rules based trading system is essential. That's what TTIP can help deliver." She also expressed her surprise about the selective public concern regarding TTIP as compared to other trade agreements. She agreed more transparency is crucial for legitimacy, but that this is precisely the scrutinising role the European Parliament has and will be fulfilling throughout the process.



Luisa Santos, Director for International Relations at BUSINESSEUROPE and a member of the TTIP Advisory Group (@BUSINESSEUROPE) provided the business perspective in our TTIP discussion as one of the "defenders", stating that TTIP is all about moving forward. She asserted that businesses do not want to lower standards and deregulate as much as their opponents suggest, as they simply have no interest in that. She pointed out that what is wanted from TTIP is the creation of more opportunities for SMEs, thus there is strong support for a specific SME chapter in the negotiations.

After summarising statements from both Accusers and Defenders, the Jury Debate was opened by Lea Auffret from BEUC, who called for a balanced discussion and a thoughtful vote. The discussion was not only extremely intense in the "courtroom"; citizens from across the globe also joined via Twitter (@EMInternational #TTIP #EurMove) to voice their concerns and opinions.

The preselected Jury of 8 citizens, tasked with keeping the opinion balanced, finally announced their **verdict**: 4 voters found TTIP "guilty", thus a bad deal for Europe; 3 – not guilty ("beneficial for Europe"), whilst 1 Jury member abstained from expressing his/her opinion by stating "I cannot say at the very moment". The Jury also asked the audience to vote by a show of hands, and while the result was fairly balanced, the "not guilty" hands up prevailed in the count.

The Trial was closed with an open-ended question, "TTIP, what next?"

Learn More!

Read our Position

EMI [Policy Position](#) on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Transparency and Access

Event Follow Up

Pictures from the event can be found [on Flickr](#)

Event site link: [EMI puts TTIP on Trial](#)

Contact us!

If you have any further inquiries, we will be happy to address them.

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The European Movement is an international organisation open to all political, economic, social and cultural trends in civil society. Its objective is to contribute to the establishment of a united, federal Europe founded on the principles of peace, democracy, liberty, solidarity, and respect for basic human rights.