



**European  
Movement**  
International

# Policy Position on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Transparency and Access

The European Movement International welcomes the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) for the positive impact it will bring to both the European economy and job market, but not at any cost: only if the concerns of all stakeholders are thoroughly and openly recognised and addressed, does the TTIP stand a chance of succeeding. A successful model for upcoming negotiation rounds should therefore take the following into account:

### Increase Transparency

Key to achieving an agreement on TTIP, and the resulting economic benefits, is transparency. The European Commission increasingly seems to recognise the importance of involving stakeholders in the negotiations, and has released a strategy for public consultation, published its negotiation mandate, and negotiated access to confidential TTIP documents for all MEPs. However, the insistence on the confidentiality of the negotiation process by the European Commission still leads to disagreement with NGOs, CSOs, MEPs and national members of parliament. The European Commission should increase transparency even further by:

- Including more detailed information on the content of the TTIP in the public documents on the state of negotiations;
- Publishing regularly updated lists of both stakeholder meetings and the negotiation documents which circulate, stating who has been granted access to these documents.

### Greater Accessibility for CSOs and NGOs

With the overrepresentation of business interests on the side of both US and EU negotiation teams, it seems that the European Commission is still misunderstanding the concept of stakeholders and the need for a truly transparent discussion. The European Movement thus calls for:

- The European Commission to continue with the positive steps already taken in the area of transparency and citizens' involvement, by further engaging in civil dialogue and open consultations at every stage of the negotiation talks;
- Full involvement of the TTIP Advisory Group, to an extent that would satisfy the expectations of civil society, and give the Advisory Group unrestricted access to the documents;
- The negotiation teams to take into consideration the concerns that repeatedly arise in debates amongst

NGOs, CSOs, consumer groups and labour organisations, and to ensure that they are well represented at the negotiation table.

### European Parliament as Watchdog

The European Movement also encourages the European Parliament to further pursue its involvement in the TTIP negotiations and contribute to its watchdog role, supervising the process of recognising concerns and incorporating relevant amendments. The access to TTIP documents granted to all MEPs will strengthen the European Parliament in the execution of this role.



At the EMI TTIP Summit in Brussels with panelists Marietje Schaake MEP; Monique Goyens, Director General, BEUC; Erik Brattberg, the German Marshall Fund of the United States

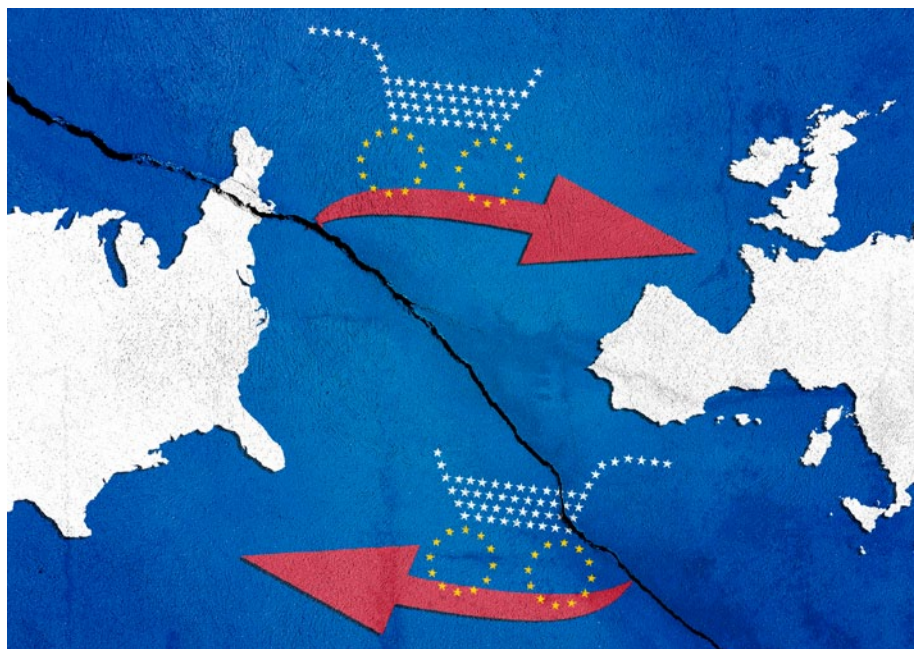
## Consumer and Environmental Standards

The European Movement calls upon the European Commission to ensure that the agreement safeguards the highest environmental and consumer standards already in place (and no matter on which side of the Atlantic), which includes environmental standards; banking, product and food standards; labour standards, wages and consumer protection; data flows and data protection; regulation of emerging technologies; public procurement and the reference to international standards.

## Impact of TTIP outside the European Union

The impact of TTIP on those outside of the European Union should also be taken into account. It can be expected that TTIP will have a profound impact on the economies of the European candidate and potential candidate countries, as well as on that of the EFTA countries: either negatively through trade diversion, or positively, as current or new members of the European internal market. As these countries are absent from the negotiation table, the European Movement calls upon the European Union negotiation team to pay particular attention to the effects of TTIP on these countries and to include their opinions in the EU position.

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## Background

The negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the European Union and United States were launched in July 2013. Despite the high expecta-

tions regarding economic benefits for both the EU and US, unprecedented levels of public and media interest have made the negotiations subject to huge public scrutiny. Major objections against the Investor-to-State Dispute Settlement mechanism have been raised, as well as against the confidentiality of negotiations, and fears have been voiced that the EU is not strong enough to negotiate with the US and that as a result, the TTIP might undermine EU standards.

## EMI's work on TTIP

To address the concerns raised by CSOs regarding the TTIP negotiations, the European Movement International organised two cycles of TTIP debates in 2014. The debates engaged a variety of stakeholders in order to approach the TTIP from different angles, and thus create an environment for a balanced, yet diverse discussion. In January 2015 the European Movement International also organised a TTIP briefing alongside EU Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly, who had launched public consultations

concerning transparency in TTIP negotiations. We continue our work on TTIP through events and policy outreach.



Karel De Gucht, Commissioner for Trade, European Commission, addresses a European Movement audience

## The European Movement

seeks to provide a platform to encourage and facilitate the active participation of citizens and stakeholders in the development of European solutions to our common challenges. We offer thought leadership on the issues that affect Europe and we give the opportunity to representatives from European associations, political parties, enterprises, trade unions, NGOs and other stakeholders, through our 39 National Councils and 34 International Associations, to work together, towards improving the way that Europe works.

“To continue with the positive steps already taken in the area of transparency and citizens’ involvement, it is necessary to further engage in civil dialogue and open consultations at every stage of the negotiation talks.”

## European Movement International

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