

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT GLUISEACHT AN PHOBAIL

Press statement

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4 February 2015

**People's Movement Demonstration
"Scrap TTIP and CETA now!"
Wednesday February 4th at 1:00 pm
The European Parliament Offices, Molesworth St., Dublin 2.**

Why today's demonstration?

The main goal of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is to remove regulatory 'barriers' which restrict the potential profits to be made by transnational corporations on both sides of the Atlantic. Yet these 'barriers' are in reality some of our most prized and hard - won social standards and environmental regulations, such as labour rights, food safety rules, regulations on the use of toxic chemicals, digital privacy laws and even new banking safeguards introduced by the EU to prevent a repeat of the 2008 financial crisis.

Neither TTIP nor CETA are traditional trade agreements to reduce tariffs on imports between trading partners and thereby stimulate trade and create jobs. These are already at minimal levels.

TTIP and CETA envisages granting foreign investors a new right to sue sovereign governments in front of ad hoc arbitration tribunals for loss of profits resulting from public policy decisions. TTIP and CETA would also tie us into rules on regulatory cooperation that pose a threat to democracy and the rule of law. They would also endanger employment, social, environmental, privacy and consumer standards and lay open public services and cultural assets to an agenda of deregulation.

In addition to this deregulation agenda, TTIP, in particular, also seeks to create new markets by opening up public services and government procurement contracts to competition from transnational corporations, threatening to introduce a further wave of privatisations in key sectors, such as health and education.

The eighth round of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations between the EU and the US commenced in Brussels on February 2nd and will continue until February 6th. TTIP. Negotiations on CETA are concluded but the agreement is currently being held in cold storage because of fears that growing opposition to it will jeopardise negotiations on TTIP.

Ends

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