

# **Fighting back**

The movement against TTIP is one of the most vibrant and exciting we have seen for years. War on Want has joined forces with trade unions, environmental activists, social network campaigners and many other groups on both sides of the Atlantic to draw public attention to the threat that TTIP poses.

# The more that people learn about TTIP, the more outraged they become.

We can defeat TTIP, just as we fought off these same powers before. But we can only do that as part of a mass movement against TTIP and all the EU's other anti-democratic trade deals.

# What you can do

- Join War on Want and become part of the solution. Go online at waronwant.org or phone us today on 020 7324 5040.
- Contact your MP and MEPs explaining your concerns over TTIP, and send us their replies.
- Join 1.5 million others and sign the European Citizens' Initiative against TTIP: waronwant.org/eci
- Order TTIP campaigns materials

   including our TTIP briefing,
   now available in over a dozen

  European languages, badges,
  posters, stickers, and flyers.
- Organise with War on Want in your local area, building the campaign against TTIP.





# What is TTIP?

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a major new deal being negotiated behind closed doors between the EU and USA. It will cost at least I million jobs, undermine our most treasured public services, lead to a 'race to the bottom' in food, environmental and labour standards and, for the first time, allow US companies to sue the UK government in special courts.TTIP will change our lives for ever.

TTIP is marketed as the answer to recession in Europe and the USA, with bogus promises of growth and jobs. Yet the official study commissioned at the start of the talks calculated that at least I million people will lose their jobs in the EU and USA as a direct result of TTIP. With unemployment already at record levels in much of Europe, these people will find it impossible to get new jobs.

#### TTIP's three pillars:

# 1. Deregulation

TTIP is not a traditional trade agreement designed to reduce border tariffs on exports. With tariffs between the EU and US already at minimal levels, the stated aim of TTIP is to remove regulations that act as 'barriers' to corporate profits.

Yet these 'barriers' are in reality some of our most prized social standards and environmental regulations such as labour rights, food safety rules (including on GMOs), regulations on the use of toxic chemicals, digital privacy laws and even new banking safeguards introduced to prevent a repeat of the 2008 financial crisis.

TTIP will remove these 'barriers'. We must defend them.

### 2. Privatisation

TTIP will boost corporate profits by opening up public services and government contracts to the private sector and 'locking in' privatisations that have already happened.

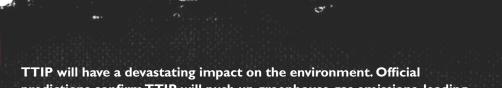
Companies such as Virgin are already running front line health care services as a result of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Health services are included in TTIP and NHS privatisation will be irreversible if the deal goes through.

The same holds true for education, water and environmental services, as well as for any hope of renationalising the railways. Under TTIP, privatisation is for ever.

# 3. Corporate courts

TTIP will grant US companies a new power to sue any future government in corporate courts for loss of profits. This 'investor-state dispute settlement' mechanism (ISDS) threatens to undermine the most basic principles of democracy, as previous cases from other treaties show:

- Dutch firm Achmea successfully sued the new government of Slovakia for reversing an unpopular health privatisation.
- US tobacco giant Philip Morris is suing the Australian government for billions of dollars for demanding all cigarettes be sold in plain packaging.
- Swedish company Vattenfall is suing the German government for €5 billion over its decision to phase out nuclear power by 2022.
- Veolia is suing the Egyptian government for loss of profits as a result of the country's decision to raise the minimum wage.
- US company Lone Pine is suing Canada for the ban on fracking in Quebec.



predictions confirm TTIP will push up greenhouse gas emissions, leading to irreversible climate change. TTIP will also bring a massive increase in the export of shale gas and tar sands oil from the USA to Europe, locking us in to fossil fuel dependency for decades to come.

TTIP is not just about the EU and USA. Negotiators say that TTIP will set the standard for all future trade and investment rules across the world. This means that TTIP will enshrine the rights of transnational corporations over and above the needs of people and the planet, forever. We cannot allow that to happen.