

TTIP: The new danger!

For a number of years, the project known as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) has been prepared in the utmost secrecy. Neither the European Parliament, nor the national parliaments or citizens are not informed. It is a denial of democracy. This project aims to create a large area of free trade between the US and the European Union. It would be socially disastrous for the people of the European Union, the USA and all other countries, including the countries of the Global South.

It covers all sectors of productive activity (industry, agriculture, transport, services) and all areas of social life. It prepares for the establishment of private arbitration tribunals to resolve disputes that might arise at the initiative of large firms against local, regional or national authorities.

The removal of standards of social, health, and environmental protection, which according to the mandate given to negotiators under the command of multinational firms amplify social, fiscal and environmental dumping. A transatlantic market would enhance the pressure on pay and working conditions we are witnessing today, and make a large swathe of the population considerably poorer.

Lower tariffs remain, particularly in agriculture, and constitute a new and serious threat to the food sovereignty of all countries; extension of private property and the patenting of living enhance the power of large corporations, as well as dangers to public health.

Any social, health or environmental policy and the development and improvement of all public services could be challenged in private tribunals, beyond the public law/scrutiny. Any company would be able to sue a State or a public authority on the grounds that social and health regulations would prevent planned investment or expected profit to that company.

Faced with this violent offensive which is being prepared, we must reaffirm the vital goals for humanity: freedom, equality, solidarity and democracy. People must be able to eat healthily: food sovereignty and food security are the means. The rules governing trade should not be those of unbridled competition, and should include mandatory clauses respecting all social and political rights.

Under popular control, governments and international institutions should cooperate in the fight against climate change, the protection of ecosystems, to ensure work for all, a decent income, social protection, real quality of life (material, social, civic etc.)

It is possible. Our rivals are strong and have huge resources to establish their dictatorship. To name them: multinationals, governments, the European Commission.

As Alter Summit we have a critical view of the process and the players involved. We will voice our criticism on a local, national and European level and join forces with other key groups in fighting this undemocratic draft treaty.

The Alter Summit cannot support the creation of a transatlantic market and we demand the negotiations on the TTIP to be stopped immediately.