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Civil society's concerns about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership - October 2014

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The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and Labour - November 2014

This briefing provides an overview of labour provisions in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). After a summary of its scope, state and EP involvement it analyses the evolution of labour provisions in trade and investment agreements with a view to similarities and differences in the EU and US approaches. Finally, it presents a number of employment-related issues as well as selected results from research on potential job effects. (Available in EN)

Negotiations on the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) concluded - October 2014

The Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada, on which negotiations were concluded, should be evaluated by its own merits. However, the public concern around the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the US, may spill over onto this agreement with Canada. CETA will be a first in many areas. The agreement will be the EU's first with another highly industrialised country to facilitate cross-border access for goods, services and investment by abolishing almost all tariffs and reducing a wide array of non-tariff barriers. CETA is also the first agreement to have been negotiated with a sound chapter on investment protection, (including Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions) – an area that finds itself in the centre of the controversy around the TTIP. (Available in EN and DE)

ENVI relevant legislative areas of the EU-US Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations (TTIP) - October 2014

This study aims to support Members of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENV) in monitoring on-going negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). It analyses the main differences between EU and US legislation in eight areas, namely: human medicines and medical devices, cosmetics, food and nutrition, sanitary and phyto-sanitary, nanomaterials, cloning, raw materials and energy, and motor vehicles. Existing collaboration between the EU and US, progress already achieved in the negotiations and potential future developments in these areas are also addressed. (Available in EN)

The expected impact of the TTIP on EU Member States and selected third countries - September 2014

The ex-ante impact assessment undertaken by the European Commission has stressed mostly extremely positive effects that the future TTIP could have on the EU economy as a whole. Several independent studies, both general and regional, have generally confirmed the expected benefits to the EU economy as a whole, but they often diverge as far as given economic sectors or Member States are concerned. Two other studies dealing with impact on third countries have revealed that preferential partners of both the EU and the US may face severe losses should the deal be finally concluded following the most optimistic scenario (full liberalisation). (Available in EN)

Investor - State Dispute Settlement provisions in the EU's International Investment Agreements (Volume 1, Volume 2) - September 2014

Workshop and Study explain how investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) provisions in the EU's international investment agreements have developed from the past to present-day bilateral investment treaties (BITs) that have grown in sophistication. Furthermore, explain how such BITs combine elements of the historical international law doctrine and their property and investments and of commercial arbitration. As well as how such agreements are linked to international dispute settlement treaties or centres. Furthermore, issues connected with including investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) in future EU agreements and possible alternatives of dispute resolution in international investment law are tackled. Finally, there is reference to the interrelation of international investment protection agreements and EU law. (Available in EN)

Risks and opportunities for the EU agri-food sector in a possible EU-US trade agreement - July 2014

The study provides a detailed overview of EU-US agricultural trade and analyses current barriers to trade, paying special attention to existing non-tariff measures which are considered being still significantly affecting transatlantic trade in agricultural goods. Based on the Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model, the potential impact of the future TTIP on agri-food exports, imports and value added suggests that a 25 % reduction of tariffs across the board and a full phasing-out of tariff protection would increase additional transatlantic trade by about 40 %. Furthermore, it contains a general discussion on the opportunities and risks of a TTIP for the EU's agricultural sector. (Available in EN)

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and the parliamentary dimension of regulatory cooperation - April 2014

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) also attempts to remove regulatory divergence – today's most prominent obstacle to trade exchanges by addressing regulatory differences and how to bridge them; providing a 'gateway' for handling sectoral regulatory issues between the EU and the US, including by addressing both legislation and non-legislative acts, regardless of the level at which they are adopted and by whom. The study examines the potential parliamentary roles, and their implications for the EU legal order – including issues of transparency, democracy, and accountability and puts forward recommendations with regard to interactions with the parties' respective legislatures, the European Parliament and the US Congress. (Available in FR, EN and DE)

Financial Services in EU trade agreements - October 2014

This study provides an overview of rules concerning trade in financial services in a range of recent preferential trade agreements (PTA) to which the EU is a party, in view of on-going negotiations with the US over the TTIP. EU Member States are collectively the world's largest exporters of financial services, and the sector is of strategic importance in the EU's trade policy. In its trade agreements with Korea, Singapore, Colombia/Peru, Central America and CARIFORUM, and its on-going negotiations with Canada, the EU has sought considerable concessions in the sector which go beyond those agreed multilaterally in the WTO. (Available in EN)

TTIP impacts on European energy markets and manufacturing industries - January 2015

This study aims at assessing whether and to which extent European energy markets and manufacturing industries would be affected by the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). It reviews the opportunities and challenges TTIP could create for EU energy markets and manufacturing industries. According to the authors, TTIP will improve the EU's security of energy supply through adding liquidity and competition to the natural gas market. It will not directly lower either environmental or social legislation, but the authors point out the risks of weakening the implementation of legislation such as REACH and Fuel Quality Directive. (Available in EN)
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Comparative study on access to documents (and confidentiality rules) in international trade negotiations - May 2015

It is extremely difficult to strengthen parliamentary oversight of the EU's trade policies without clear and predictable rules and procedures for the EP to access relevant information from the Commission and the Council. This study provides an overview on the rules guaranteeing access to information in international trade negotiations both in the EU and in selected third countries. It evaluates the existing arrangements on access to information by Parliament in view of the provisions included in the Treaty of Lisbon, international norms and agreements, EU case-law, and similar rules, arrangements and practices in a group of national parliaments. (Available in EN)

TTIP's potential impact on developing countries: A review of existing literature and selected issues - April 2015

The position and concerns of developing countries have only belatedly entered into the discussion over the TTIP. Poor countries' precarious positions mean that - whilst they may gain much from TTIP's positive effects – they may be less able to react and adapt to negative consequences. Economic analyses have identified different ways in which the Partnership could affect developing countries and influence the global trading system. Proposals to address such negative consequences include concrete measures for affected countries, including extending unilateral preferences and shaping the TTIP in such a way as to facilitate positive effects. (Available in EN)

TTIP negotiations: challenges and opportunities for Europe - a sectoral overview - June 2015

This compilation brings together eight publications summarising analyses done on the opportunities and challenges Europe faces with regard to the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). They cover technical barriers to trade, consumer protection, standards, services, procurement and the sectors of textiles and clothing, motor vehicles and machinery. They examine options of the TTIP from the point of view of EU offensive and defensive interests, considering facilitation of commercial exchanges of goods and services between the EU and the US and enhancement of investment, as the overall objective of the negotiations. (Available in EN)

Policy Departments

The five policy departments are responsible for providing - both in-house and external - high-level independent expertise, analysis and policy advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies. They are closely involved in the work of committees which they support in shaping legislation on and at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies. They are closely involved in the work of committees which they support in shaping legislation on and at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies. They are closely involved in the work of committees which they support in shaping legislation on and at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies. They are closely involved in the work of committees which they support in shaping legislation on and at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies. They are closely involved in the work of committees which they support in shaping legislation on and at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

The Monthly highlights provide an overview, at a glance, of the on-going work of the policy departments, including a selection of the latest and forthcoming publications, and a list of future events. To receive this publication send an email to: ep-policydepartments@ep.europa.eu

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Background

The EU and the US are one another’s largest economic partners. Together, they represent about half of the world’s gross domestic product and one third of world trade. The magnitude of the transatlantic economic exchange and the chance to further boost growth and create jobs provided the initial impetus for launching talks on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). As bilateral customs duties are already relatively low, the TTIP aims to go beyond tariff reduction and tackle behind-the-border barriers. Today, after seven rounds of negotiations, the initial enthusiasm has given way to defensive positions, with both partners focused on their own markets. The European Parliament’s Committee on International Trade and a number of committees treating the Union’s internal policies are following the negotiations while the President chairs a working group to coordinate the Parliament’s approach. The EP has generally supported the negotiations, while expressing caution about several sensitive issues. Papers produced by the Policy Departments have addressed these and other issues, including the agreement’s potential implications on EU Member States and third countries, the US Congress’ view of the Partnership, and its impact on areas such as employment and agriculture.

Publications

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