

Summaries of the TTIP petitions

Petition 1221/2013 by Richard Loch (German) concerning conditions for the signing of a free trade agreement between the EU and the US

The petitioner calls on the European Parliament, Council and Commission to refuse to sign a free trade agreement with the US unless the US authorities agree to cease monitoring and collecting data regarding individuals, companies, institutions and organisations within the EU save for the purpose of resolving crimes or in the context of international criminal investigations. He also calls on the US to notify the European Parliament of all information collected regarding natural and legal persons referred to above since 2001, to recognise the right of EU citizens to digital self-determination and to refrain from any action or omission potentially detrimental to the EU as a political or economic entity for its own advantage.

Recommendations

- Declare admissible.
- Forward for opinion to the Committee on International Trade and the Committee on Development.
- Forward to the petitioner a copy of Written Question E-008998/2013 concerning EU relations with the US, together with the Commission's reply.

Petition 1635/2013 by C.L. (German), on the EU-US free trade agreement and risks relating to food imports from the US

The petitioner is opposed to any further negotiation and to the signature of the EU-US free trade agreement, underlining the risks arising regarding the quality of food imports under this agreement, since the inspection procedures and preparation methods that ensure consumer safety prescribed and implemented under EU law are not carried out in the US, exposing consumers to health risks from substandard foods and possible contamination.

Petition 1960/2013 by DS (German) on suspending negotiations with the US to create a free trade zone

The petitioner asks the EC to suspend negotiations for the creation of free trade zone until the EU receives sufficient guarantees from the US that they have taken appropriate measures to ensure the 'digital self-determination' of EU citizens. In the petitioner's opinion, the acceptance by the EU of US and UK surveillance practices is damaging the EU's reputation and image abroad.

Petition 2694/2013 by G.R. (French), on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership arrangements between the EU and the United States

The petitioner expresses concern at the possible medium and long-term implications of the the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership arrangements currently being negotiated by the EU and the United States. He, refers to an article in ‘Le monde diplomatique’ indicating that the bilateral agreement will allow any US or European company to initiate proceedings against Member States for alleged anti-liberalism, with a view to forcing them to amend legislation detrimental to their profits, effectively giving their shareholders a decisive voice in national policy making and legislation. The petitioner accordingly urges the European Parliament to vote against the agreement.

Petition 2721/2013 filed by Bruno Kramm (German) on more involvement of EU citizens in TTIP negotiations

The petitioner asks the European Parliament to ensure that all negotiations relating to the free trade agreement TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) take place in a transparent manner and can be followed by citizens. This would involve access to all of the delegations’ proposals and documents and a process whereby as much social involvement on the part of EU citizens is sought as possible. According to the petitioner, negotiations between the European Commission and the United States take place totally shielded from social debate. The negotiations relate to the establishment of the largest free trade area in the world but people in the EU and the US must fear curtailment of many democratic rights. The petitioner believes that in Europe this means that consumer protection against genetically modified food and hormone-treated meat, agricultural standards, social standards, climate standards and financial supervision are being harmonised at the lowest level. Large concerns and multinationals are acquiring greater rights of appeal and investment protection against European social and environmental legislation in non-transparent disputes committees. According to the petitioner, the looser American standards on data protection that are being imported into Europe will further impact on the privacy and personal data of citizens. According to the petitioner, non-transparent negotiations jeopardise the unification of Europe and citizens’ acceptance of the EU. Only transparent negotiations that are easily understood and take into account the interests of all parties and stakeholders and resultant consequences for the democratic states of Europe can offer security against this.

Petition 2859/2013 by Nina Berto (FR), bearing 120 signatures, on the TAFTA (Transatlantic Free Trade Area Agreement) a/k/a TTIP agreement which is underway.

The petitioner calls for closer scrutiny and closer calls by the European Parliament on the whole TAFTA (a/k/a TTIP) agreement. TAFTA (Transatlantic Free Trade Area) is a proposal to create a transatlantic free-trade area covering Europe and North America. Such proposals have been made since the 1990s and since 2013 an agreement between the United States and European Union has been under negotiation: the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Once complete, if combined with free trade agreements with Canada, Mexico and the European Free Trade Association it could form a free trade area covering a large portion of the two continents. The main petitioner, and the additional signatories, is afraid that such a deal could greatly and adversely affect the domains of food safety, environment protection, health systems, retirement schemes and several other sensitive areas.

Petition 0149/2014 by Detlef Schneider (German), on the objection to the free trade agreement with the US

The petitioner presents arguments as to why, in his opinion, the European Union should not enter into a free trade agreement with the US.

Petition No 0184/2014 by P. T. (German), on the free trade agreement with the United States

The petitioner believes that the free trade agreement with the United States will have a detrimental effect on quality standards in the EU and will result in products with a lower quality than is the case today. He states that foodstuffs produced using genetic engineering and chickens washed with chlorine may be introduced into the EU. Many jobs in Europe would also be under threat as a result of the agreement. The petitioner is of the opinion that the higher quality standards in the EU are useful and that consumer protection should be at the forefront and that the negotiations regarding the agreement should be halted.

Petition 0195/2014 by Ole Fjord Larsen (Danish), on the trade and investment treaty between the EU and the United States of America

The petitioner believes that the trade and investment treaty between the EU and the United States of America, which is currently under negotiation, will have negative consequences on people's health and environmental standards. The petitioner believes that the European Union will be invaded by genetically modified organisms, fast food, pesticides, chemicals and fracking. The petitioner denounces the lack of transparency of the negotiations and asks the European Parliament to reject the treaty.

Information

– In July 2014, the European Ombudsman initiated an ex-officio investigation as regards

the transparency and public participation in the treaty negotiations (OI/10/2014/RA). Subsequently, the European Ombudsman launched a public consultation process regarding this investigation.

Petition 0242/2014 by P. B. (German), on the free trade agreement (TTIP) with the United States

The petitioner believes that the free trade agreement with the United States will lead to a huge deterioration in the quality of food in Europe and the welfare of animals. According to the petitioner, the regulation on protecting rights will also have a significant negative impact on the way of life in Europe. The petitioner argues that the free trade agreement will lower quality standards in Europe and he believes that the negotiations on the agreement must be stopped.

Petition No 0589/2014 by Siegfried Fischer (German) on opposition to a free trade agreement with the United States of America

The petitioner argues as to why he feels that the European Union should not conclude a free trade agreement with the USA.

Information

- Petition 0149/2014 concerned a similar issue and was processed as shown below.

Recommendations

- declare admissible;
- forward, together with petition 0149/2014, to INTA Committee and consider with the opinion of PETI on this subject.;

Petition No 0706/2014 by Stefan Sielaff (German) on the possible free trade agreement with the US

The petitioner asks for an immediate stop in negotiations on a free-trade agreement with the US. He fears in particular that European food safety standards, including the GMO labelling requirements, could be undermined and that the import of agricultural products from the US could adversely affect smaller European farmers. He furthermore suggests that the agreement may allow US companies to bring action for damages against the EU or a Member State when they consider that a possible future tightening of EU environmental standards would affect their profits.

Petition No 0722/2014 by Danièle Favari (French), against the TTIP and the CETA

Through a very detailed petition, the petitioner questions the lack of transparency of the negotiations of both the TTIP and the CETA, and suggests an inadequate role of the interest groups in the related processes. The petitioner also expresses some concerns regarding the alleged detrimental social, economic, environmental and sanitary effects of these trade agreements, in particular as regards the preservation of the welfare state and the precautionary principle. Therefore, the petition aims at requesting that the Commission immediately abandons the negotiations on the TTIP, that it provides a full account of what has been done so far, and to organise a referendum to consult the EU citizens on this matter. In addition, it demands that the EP and the Council do not ratify the CETA.

Petition No 0738/2014 by Rudolf Görke (German) on the draft free trade agreement with the United States.

The petitioner is calling for the draft free trade agreement between the United States and the European Union to be rejected as he considers it would be wholly disadvantageous for US citizens and companies. **Petition 0783/2014 by James Paicopolos (Greek) concerning on human rights infringements by the US both at home and abroad**

The petitioner accuses the US of committing human rights infringements both at home and abroad. He gives a number of examples of this and calls on the EU to halt the negotiations for a free trade area.

Information

- The petition relates not to a specific issue but to general allegations regarding the US and its laws

Recommendations

- declare inadmissible: the matter does not come within the European Union's fields of activity;

Petition No 0949/2014 by Andreas Loose (German) on negotiations for a possible EU-US free trade agreement

The petitioner is against the conclusion of a free trade agreement with the US. He argues that such an agreement would undermine European standards with regard to food safety, consumer rights, workers' rights and intellectual property rights. He also criticises that negotiations are conducted in a non-transparent manner.

Petition 0973/2014 by Georg Rammer (German) on the negotiations on a draft free-trade agreement between the United States and the European Union.

The petitioner calls for the negotiations on a draft free-trade agreement between the United States and the European Union to be stopped because he thinks the process is anti-democratic and serves private interests at the expense of public interests.

Petition No 1032/2014 by Christian Kriewel (German) on the need for information and a referendum on the TTIP, TiSA and CETA trade agreements

The petitioner expresses his concern about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (with the US), the Trade in Services Agreement (within the WTO) and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (with Canada). Given the profound effects that the agreements may have on, for example, environmental policy, wages and job security, he argues that the European Parliament should keep citizens informed about the content of the agreements and hold a referendum on each of them.

Petition No 1122/2014 by Klaus-D. Gehrke (German) concerning negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

The petitioner objects to negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), arguing that it is a gross infringement of the fundamental rights of EU citizens, effectively disenfranchising both them and the European Parliament. He also objects to the projected 'tribunals' for the settlement of TTIP-related disputes and asks what is the point of EU courts if TTIP tribunals are empowered to hand down irrefutable judgements. He argues in addition that the TTIP effectively rides roughshod over all European environmental and food safety regulations since it will facilitate the import of genetically modified crops. He is accordingly seeking transparency regarding TTIP negotiations and the holding of a referendum on the agreement.

Petition n° 1336/2014, by S. d. vW (German), on the project of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

The petitioner demands more transparency concerning the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and to take into account his wish, already expressed during the European elections, to defend the EU legislation against multinational companies' interests.

Petition No 1575/2014 by Till Borchert (German) on the negotiations for a free trade agreement with the US

The petitioner believes that secret negotiations with the US on a possible free trade agreement are not in accordance with democratic principles. He asks in general for more transparency, an open debate and proper information of the public about the implications of the agreement. Furthermore he believes that Parliament should be required to ratify the agreement.

Petition No 1649/2014 by A.K. (Polish) on Protest against unclear intentions and closed door negotiation on the TTIP agreement.

The petitioner is worried about the closed door negotiations on the EU-USA Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and its unclear intentions. She argues that because the agreement will affect to all member states and e.g. standards of food are much lower than in the EU, it is worrying if the information is given only at the end of negotiations. She states also that surely there can be trade between the EU and USA, but public opinion should have unlimited access to the process of these negotiations.

Petition No 2062/2014 by Inge Asante (German) on negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) arrangements between the EU and the United States and support for the Ukrainian government.

Petitioner in an emotional manner expresses her disagreement for continuation of further negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership arrangements between the EU and the United States.

She calls as well on the EU to stop any form of support to the Ukrainian state and government, that she considers to be of national-socialist (Nazi) origin.

Petition No 2268/2014 by G. M. (Italian) on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

According to the petitioner the public should have access to the files of the TTIP negotiations and he requests the European Parliament to demand such access from the European Commission.

Petition 2314/2014 by J. L. J. M. (Spanish) against the TTIP.

The petitioner criticises the TTIP, which according to him only beneficiates to multinational companies and threatens all the European social, economic, environmental and health

regulatory framework. In particular, he stresses the potential spread of GMO products on the European market, as well as the end of protected origins. Therefore, he demands that the EU rejects this trade agreement, as well as the CETA.

Petition 2328/2014 by Gael Drillon (French) against the TTIP and the TISA.

The petitioner blames the TTIP and CETA for threatening European social, economic and environmental norms. He also fiercely criticises the investment arbitration system, which is equivalent to him to state-power attributed to firms, without any democratic control. Finally, he mentions the Citizens' Initiative "Stop TTIP" to underline the lack of transparency and public consultation on the negotiations.

Petition No 2647/2014 by Hans Werner Forster (German) on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

The petitioner points out that one of the concepts in German constitutional law is the concept of the common good (Gemeinwohlverpflichtung). According to the Bavarian constitution all economic activities serve the common good. The petitioner - as an EU citizen and member of the public concerned by the trade agreements CETA and TTIP - requests the European Commission and the European Parliament to take into account the concept of the common good in the negotiations and votes on these trade agreements.

Petition No 0027/2015 by Mateusz Wójtowicz (Polish), on behalf of Association Forum Rdzawka, on negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

The petitioner expresses his concerns about the closed door negotiations on the EU-USA Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. He voices an opinion, that the Agreement may contain some confidential provisions comparable with the ACTA one. In his opinion this would infringe the Charter of Fundamental Rights and in particular Articles 7 and 8 thereof.

Petition No 0033/2015 by Arnaud Keymolen (Belgian) on TTIP and CETA

The petitioner calls to stop the negotiations on the TTIP with the USA and the ratification of the CETA agreement with the Canada. In particular he stresses the dangers to undermine the European standards for social and environmental protection, the quality of public services and the respect of the European legislation on data protection.