

Sunday March the 9th, 2014
Berlin

Vertretung der Europäischen
Kommission in Deutschland
Unter den Linden 78
10117 Berlin

To the members of the European Commission,

I wish to express my deepest indignation concerning the negotiations that presently take place between the governments of the United States of America (USA) and of the European Union (EU) about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

Several essential points ground my profound disagreement with the TTIP and its EU mandate for the negotiations.

The first point is that the European Council and the European Commission have launched the negotiations in the name of the 28 member states of the European Union as early as July 2013, without an official EU mandate. Furthermore, these negotiations take place with a total lack of transparency. The fourth cycle of negotiations will begin next week and the whole process of negotiations is largely kept out of reach of journalists and European citizens, with the EU mandate for the negotiations being kept confidential.

However, a careful examination of this EU mandate reveals that the TTIP, if agreed upon, would have a considerable impact on the function of our democracies at every level of the citizens' life on both sides of the Atlantic. Indeed, the elimination of custom duties and above all the harmonization of social, fiscal, sanitary and environmental norms between the USA and the EU pose a serious threat for the citizens' free choice of society. The protection of personal data on the Internet, public procurements, sanitary protections and labour rights, for instance, are organized following regulations, which standards are generally higher in Europe than in the USA. Harmonizing these regulations and rules would therefore lead to weaken the standards, which is unacceptable in absence of a real public debate.

Additionally, the early involvement of many multinational firms and their powerful lobbies in the negotiations for the TTIP (119 meetings took place in one year) demonstrate that their interests are placed at the heart of the treaty. Furthermore, the settlement of investor-to-state disputes will be delegated to private persons that do not exert within the legal system. This treaty therefore constitutes a proper Trojan horse allowing multinational firms to conquer the European markets, at the expense of civil protections in our countries. The twenty years of application of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the USA, Canada and Mexico have clearly demonstrated the impaired power of local states to determine their energetic, social and sanitary policies, in favour of private companies (the Canadian state was sued 30 times and forced to pay a total of 226 millions of US dollars to private firms that considered their environmental or health regulations too restrictive).

Finally, the arguments given to support the TTIP are based on previsions of economical growth and creation of jobs. However, the figures provided by the simulation (creation of 400 to 500 000 jobs and growth of 0.5% of the GDP over 10 years) do not allow to consider this treaty as a realistic solution against mass unemployment and the economical crisis that hit Europe presently.

I therefore solemnly urge the members of the European Commission to stop the negotiations for the TTIP immediately. Were they to be pursued, they must be placed at the centre of the public debate (especially during the upcoming elections for the European Parliament) and must be transparent. We appeal the European Commission to organize a referendum in order to allow the population to actually choose whether the TTIP should be adopted.

Print the letter, write your name and sign it... (Or write your own letter),

Meet us on Sunday the 9th, 2014 To give them together to the European Commission in Berlin

Meeting point : **At 1p.m to the Sinti & Roma memorial** (Berlin - Tiergarten)

More informations : www.facebook.com/fdgberlin

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<http://stoptafta.wordpress.com/english/>

<http://www.scoop.it/t/tafta-gmt>



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