



WHAT IS TTIP?

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is the trading agreement under negotiation between the European Union and the United States. The official objective of TTIP is to boost transatlantic trade and investment, which is projected to drive growth and create jobs on both sides of the Atlantic.

The agreement aims to remove trade barriers within a wide range of economic sectors and would consist of three main parts:

- Market access (including tariffs)
- Regulatory issues & Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs)
- Rules (e.g. intellectual property rights, customs and trade facilitation, trade and sustainable development).

In practice, as trade tariffs between partners are already quite low, negotiations will mainly focus on reducing regulatory barriers.

How do negotiations work?

The European Commission formally appointed its negotiation team following granting of the mandate by the Council of the European Union in June 2013. This mandate has not been published. The negotiation process remains highly secretive and non-transparent. The mandate and the negotiation texts are unavailable to the public. The Commission holds the leading role in negotiations, with the European Parliament and Council having the final decision without the right to alter the text. Despite the European Commission setting up an Advisory Group, the negotiations lack democratic guarantees.

What are the potential benefits of TTIP for consumers?

- The European consumer could benefit from a TTIP agreement with:
 - Lower prices and a wider variety of traded goods and services.
 - The elimination of customs duties on goods personally imported from the US.



- A reduction of excessive pricing of transatlantic telecommunications.
- Common EU-US traceability and alert systems for products and better exchanges of information between regulatory agencies.

What are the potential risks of TTIP for consumers?

TTIP poses a number of risks to European consumers:

- Access to the European market of food that has not been produced according to European safety standards. The concept of food safety in the US is based on "reasonable certainty of no harm" and not on the "precautionary principle" like in the EU.
- Undermining data protection standards. In the EU, the rights to privacy and protection of personal data are fundamental and broad in scope and linked to strong sanctions. In the US, privacy is simply a matter of consumer protection in a very limited number of areas such as with children and the internet, health and financial services.
- Chemicals banned in the EU, but used in products and cosmetics in the US, might find their way onto European shelves.
- The introduction of an arbitration system, the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), which would allow foreign companies to claim compensation from governments (i.e. taxpayers) if they believe government actions or regulation diminish the value of their investment.

EAF DELEGATION VISITS TURKEY

Brussels, October 2015 - EAF delegation visited Istanbul from the 23rd till the 25th October 2015, a week before the Turkish General Elections scheduled for 1st November 2015.

The elections were held on 1 November 2015 throughout the 85 electoral districts of Turkey to elect 550 members to the Grand National Assembly. It was the 25th general election in the History of the Republic of Turkey and led to the election of the country's 26th Parliament. The election resulted in the Justice and Development Party (AKP) regaining a Parliamentary majority following a 'shock' victory, having lost it five months earlier in the June 2015 general election.

The snap election was called by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on 24 August 2015 after the June election resulted in a hung parliament and coalition negotiations broke down. Although the election, dubbed as a 're-run' of the inconclusive June election by President Erdoğan, was the 7th early election in the history of Turkish politics, it was the first to be overseen by an interim election government. The election rendered the 25th Parliament of Turkey, elected in June, the shortest in the Grand National Assembly's history, lasting for just five months and being in session for a total of 33 hours.

The visit led by the EAF



Secretary General Sharon Ellul Bonici was a valuable insight into the finish of the political campaign and the atmosphere within the broad audience of voters on the streets of Istanbul.

EAF believes that European political parties should continue to share experiences and exchange ideas with political partners worldwide, and maintain and establish cooperation with politicians in the neighbouring countries of the EU.

"Political stability of the countries outside the external borders of the European Union



remains one of the most important factors in keeping the external borders safe, that's why it's in our interest to be knowledgeable of the political processes that are ongoing in those countries" concluded EAF Secretary General upon her return from Turkey.

EAF PARTICIPATES IN THE 'MARCH FOR FREEDOM AND SOVEREIGNTY' IN WARSAW

October, Warsaw - EAF participated in the 'March of Freedom and Sovereignty' which commemorates the restoration of Poland's independence. The demonstration was organised by KORWiN, a right-wing party. It gathered many representatives of the Polish media, and engaged hundreds of Poles that marched and thus supported the initiative. Among other foreign partners, EAF expressed its support to the projects and policies that the KORWiN party is working on, especially in regards to the importance of State sovereignty.

EAF was represented by the Secretary General Sharon Ellul Bonici, Board Member Normunds Grostins.





EUROPEAN COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The European Council concluded its October meeting with an official statement issued on the 15th October. We bring you the main highlights:

MIGRATION 1.

Tackling the migration and refugee crisis is a common obligation which requires a comprehensive strategy and a determined effort over time in a spirit of solidarity and responsibility. The orientations agreed by Heads of State or Government on 23 September focused on the most pressing issues. The European Council set out the following further orientations:

Cooperating with third countries to stem the flows;

a) Welcomed the joint Action Plan with Turkey as part of a comprehensive cooperation agenda based on shared responsibility, mutual commitments and delivery. Successful implementation will contribute to accelerating the fulfilment of the visa liberalisation roadmap towards all participating Member States and the full implementation of the readmission agreement. Progress will be assessed in spring 2016.

b) Ensures effective and operational follow up to High-level Conference on the Eastern Mediterranean/Western Balkans

c) achieve concrete operational measures at the forthcoming Valletta Summit with African Heads of State or Government, focusing, in a fair and balanced manner, on effective return and readmission, dismantling of criminal networks and prevention of illegal migration, accompanied by real efforts to tackle root causes and to support the African socio-economic development together with a commitment concerning continued possibilities for legal migration;

d) explore possibilities for developing safe and sustainable reception capacities in the affected regions and providing lasting prospects and adequate procedures for refugees and their families, including through access to education and jobs, until return to their country of origin is possible;

e) Ask Member States to further contribute to the efforts made to support UNHCR, World Food

Programme and other agencies, as well as to support the EU's Regional Trust Fund responding to the Syria crisis and the EU Trust Fund for Africa.

f) Work towards the gradual establishment of an integrated management system for external borders;

g) Make full use of the existing Frontex mandate, including as regards the deployment of Rapid Border Intervention Teams;

h) in accordance with the distribution of competences under the Treaty, in full respect of the national competence of the Member States, enhance the mandate of Frontex in the context of discussions over the development of a European Border and Coast Guard System, including as regards the deployment of Rapid Border Intervention Teams in cases where Schengen evaluations or risk analysis demonstrate the need for robust and prompt action, in cooperation with the Member State concerned;

k) in accordance with the decisions taken so far, press ahead with the establishment of further hotspots within the agreed timeframe to ensure the identification, registration, fingerprinting and reception of applicants for international protection and other migrants and at the same time ensure relocation and returns.

l) further to the first successful relocations, proceed rapidly with the full implementation of the decisions taken so far on relocation as well as our commitments on resettlement and on the functioning of hotspots;

n) Enlarge the Frontex mandate on return to include the right to organise joint return operations on its own initiative, and enhance its role regarding the acquisition of travel documents for returnees;

o) Promote the acceptance by third countries of an improved European return laissezpasser as the reference document for return purposes;

p) Effectively implement all readmission commitments, whether undertaken through formal readmission agreements, the Cotonou Agreement or other arrangements;

q) Further increase leverage in the fields of return and readmission, using where appropriate the "more-for-more" principle