

10 myths on TTIP

① A threat to democracy?

EU's negotiations with the US for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) are based on a mandate, which has been approved by democratically elected leaders from EU member states. When the negotiations are finalised, the final trade deal will need to be approved by both EU member states and the EU Parliament.

② A threat to public services?

It is the sovereign decision of EU member states whether or not they want to outsource the delivery of public services such as health care, education, public infrastructure, and water supply to private service providers. Already today, a number of EU member states have chosen to let private companies deliver such services, while other member states have chosen not to. TTIP does not change this.

③ A threat to food safety?

TTIP will not mean that food products, which are banned from the EU market, will suddenly be allowed to enter the market. The EU Commission has consistently underlined that products such as hormone treated beef, chlorinated chicken and new GMO-products will not be allowed to enter the EU market. Likewise, the US will not allow a number of European food products (for instance certain cheese products) to enter the US market, as these products do not fulfil US hygiene standards.

④ A threat to the environment?

TTIP will not mean a lowering of EU's environmental standards. Instead, TTIP will allow regulators to cooperate towards eliminating unnecessary and duplicative approval process and requirements for product standards, where we have the same level of protection on both sides of the Atlantic. This will result in more efficient and effective regulation, which in turn will better protect our consumers, workers and the environment.

⑤ A threat to the climate?

TTIP will lead to an estimated increase in CO₂-emissions of 0.02–0.07 per cent due to increased production, transportation and consumption. This marginal increase in emissions will be offset by increased innovation and effectiveness brought about by TTIP, which will allow companies to produce products more effectively, which in turn reduces the environmental impact of production.

⑥ A threat to worker's rights?

TTIP will not undermine the rights of workers in the EU or USA. Instead, it will reinforce job creation in both EU and USA and ensure that we don't lose even more jobs to Asia. TTIP will create an estimated 1.3 million new jobs in the EU and an estimated 1.1 million jobs in the US.

⑦ A threat to personal privacy?

TTIP will not put in question fundamental rights in the EU such as freedom of expression and information and it will not hamper specific EU regulations related to data security and protection. Transfer, storage and processing of data are essential to 21st-century economic activity. To ensure trust of users it is imperative that provisions on cross-border data flows are in compliance with data protection standards and rules in force in the country of residence of the data subjects.

⑧ A threat to financial control?

TTIP will not reduce the level of regulation in the financial sector. Instead, increased cooperation between financial regulators on both sides of the Atlantic will allow for swifter and more consistent implementation of financial reforms in line with G-20 orientations. The recent financial crisis has shown how important it is to have a broad and coordinated approach among major world economies when it comes to financial services regulation. This is in the interest of consumers and tax payers and will not lead to financial deregulation but on the contrary to regulatory coherence.

⑨ Negotiated in secrecy?

Member States, the EU Parliament and stakeholders are regularly briefed on the state-of-play of negotiations by the EU Commission. The Commission has also created an advisory group composed of consumer, environmental, business and trade unions representatives to assist negotiators and provide input into the negotiation process. EU position papers on specific sectors (e.g. chemical, cosmetics, automotive sectors) have been published by the Commission. Furthermore, public consultations have been conducted both before negotiations were started, and during negotiations, such as on the inclusion of an investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism. However, as in any negotiation, the details of the negotiating strategy are kept confidential in order to ensure meaningful results.

⑩ A dangerous blueprint for the rest of the world?

The objective of TTIP is not to lower standards or levels of protection, nor to exclude other trading partners from the transatlantic market. On the contrary, TTIP will result in effective and modern standards and achieve the highest possible level of protection for consumers, workers and the environment. By creating common standards we also make it much easier for companies from especially the developing world to enter the transatlantic market. Rather than producing products to two different markets, they can now produce according to one common standard for one large market.