



EFN Policy Statement Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a trade agreement that is being negotiated between the European Union and the United States (discussions officially started in January 2014).

There are widespread concerns that TTIP is being negotiated in secret, with a purely economic focus and with little attention to the impact on public services. There is very real concern that this will adversely affect patient care and members' terms and conditions of work, and could potentially lower the overall standards of care.

EFN's concerns are addressed in the following five key statements which underpin EFN's position. The EFN calls on the European Commission to bear them in mind when discussing TTIP:

- Any agreement between the EU and the US on TTIP should have an explicit reference to health services being excluded from the directive.
- Any agreement on TTIP must also ensure that national governments are able to pursue future public objectives without fear of legal proceedings from US investors.
- The independence of national governments being able to organise and manage their health care systems must be preserved. This must include the ability for national governments to change existing legislation in relation to health services should they wish to do so.
- Any agreement on TTIP must exclude the ISDS mechanism, which would undermine the existing national legal arrangements in each member state to deal with investor protection and undermine the independence of national courts by introducing a tribunal to rule on investor disputes which could bypass national courts.
- The ongoing negotiations on TTIP must become more open and transparent. This principle also applies to the ISDS mechanism. The European Commission has made public announcements that public services will be excluded. However, unless the negotiations and text are made public then the uncertainty will remain as to the extent to which this covers health services.

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