

date: 08 June 2015
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Dear MEP

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) - plenary vote

You will be aware that international trade is an important issue for trade unions in the UK. We have a long tradition of supporting free and fair trade, and we are therefore particularly concerned about TTIP, which our annual Congress last year voted to oppose, while seeking improvements and protections for working people.

This week in the European Parliament, you have the chance to give the European Commission and the Governments of Europe a clear indication of what the representatives of Europe's people want them to do, and I hope you will cast your votes in the public interest.

The most important votes will concern Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS.) The TUC is opposed in principle to a special court system solely for foreign investors, and we therefore oppose ISDS in particular but also any 'alternatives' - such as Commissioner Malmström's - which provide privileged access to dispute settlement for one group alone, rather than domestic courts and state-state dispute settlement. I know that trade unionists across Europe and in the United States are united in opposition to ISDS, and that there is growing opposition among your counterparts in the US Congress.

I urge you to vote for Amendment 27, but also to support Amendments 114 and 115. Should the final report include ISDS I would urge you to reject it in the final vote, but if the final report excludes ISDS then MEPs should definitely support the report in the final vote, to send a clear mission to the EU's TTIP negotiators.

Secondly, we are of course concerned to protect public services, especially the NHS and health and education services generally, but also other public services. We think that voters should decide what is and is not part of the public sector, through their democratically-elected governments. The best way to do this is to use the 'positive list' approach, and I urge



you to vote for Amendment 13 and support any other moves which replace 'hybrid' or 'negative' lists with 'positive' lists.

The TUC also wants the European Parliament to express support for no lowering of regulatory protections for workers, consumers or the environment, as well as binding and enforceable ILO standards, as already provided for in the INTA report you will be voting on.

It is vital that the European Commission and EU member state governments hear the voice of European citizens through the European Parliament, and I would welcome your assurance that you will be voting as suggested above. If you have any questions please get in touch.

Yours sincerely

FRANCES O'GRADY

General Secretary