



Fair Transatlantic Trade for Jobs and Growth

PES Presidency Declaration

Adopted on the 14th of June 2013

The Party of European Socialists (PES) agrees with the launch of negotiations of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and supports the strengthening of balanced economic relations on both sides of the Atlantic. The TTIP could represent an opportunity to bring greater prosperity and job creation, contributing to global recovery. We will follow the negotiations closely in the interest of EU's citizens.

The European social democrats believe that comprehensive and ambitious trade negotiations with the US will enhance bilateral trade relations on both sides of the Atlantic. It should bring about new opportunities for the citizens of the EU in terms of job creation and growth in these times of economic crisis. Due to its size, the TTIP could enable Europe to influence the development of global rules and set new international standards, hence strengthening a fair and sustainable multilateral trade system.

The TTIP will create the largest free trade area in the world, the EU and the US accounting for half of global GDP in terms of value and one third of global trade flows. It is estimated that the trade deal could add around 0.5% to the EU's annual economic output, around €119 billion.

European social democrats want to ensure that EU-US trade and investment relations are balanced, mutually beneficial and do not harm both trading partners' fundamental values. We believe that the agreement should be an opportunity to level up fundamental standards and not to lower them, thus avoiding a race to the bottom. There should be a full guarantee for EU fundamental rights standards and in particular as regards the protection of personal data of all EU and US citizens.

The PES would like to highlight some important issues in the TTIP that raises concern: labour rights, services, investments, environmental protection and culture.

- The agreement must ensure the highest possible workers' and social standards and must not harm labour conditions such as equal pay and equal treatment. Trade unions in Europe and the USA should also be fully involved during the negotiations to ensure workers' rights are guaranteed. The PES wants it to be clear that labour rights enshrined by EU legislation and ILO core conventions must be mentioned as non-negotiable issues.
- The fact that the TTIP is aiming to include services demands further clarifications. For us, as European social democrats, services such education, health, social services, water supply, postal services or public transport are public goods that must be safeguarded. Concerning financial services, the agreement should adopt measures to regulate the



financial system and promoting coordination against tax avoidance and tax heavens. In addition, the TTIP should not hinder the implementation of a financial transaction tax.

- Given the highly developed legal system of the US and the EU, it is important to ensure that a state-to-state dispute settlement mechanism and the use of local judicial remedies are the most appropriate tools to address investment disputes instead of investor-state dispute settlement procedures. Moreover, labour rights and the rights of governments to regulate in the public interest must not be undermined by any investor protection provisions.
- European social democrats call for an unambiguous commitment to environmental protection, a renewed efforts to tackle climate change and a strong sustainable development chapter.
- The removal of non-tariff barriers must not be used to lower EU standards, in particular regarding agriculture and food-related issues such sanitary and phytosanitary standards, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), cloning and consumer health. The EU's precautionary principle must not be compromised.
- Culture must not be considered as a commodity. To preserve Europe's cultural diversity and the strength and influence of artistic creativity, the cultural exception must be safeguarded. In particular, the broadcasting and the audiovisual sector must not to be part of the talks.

It is crucial that the negotiations for a free trade agreement are accompanied by clear communication and based on the principle of openness and transparency by involving social partners and duly taking into account civil society. The PES is following the discussion closely in the European Parliament (and the recent resolution of the European Parliament on the TTIP approved on 23 May 2013) and will work in close cooperation with the S&D group, as the European Parliament has the final consent on trade issues.

The process and the conclusion of the TTIP will have an impact on the EU's non-member partners. Therefore they should be well informed of the evolution of the talks.

It is important that progressives in Europe and US, coming from parties, think tanks, trade unions and civil society organisations, engage in a debate on these issues during the whole negotiation process. The impact of the progressive voices must be heard.

