



# **STOP TTIP ITALIA**

**Stop the US-EU Free Trade agreement!**

**The TTIP, Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, dealing with free trade agreements between European Union and United States is currently under deliberately secret negotiations. It is much more than a negotiation on free trade. It is another attack of economic lobbies, Governments and vested interests against what is left of labour, people, environmental, and citizens' rights after years of economic and financial crisis. In a broader attempt to dislodge the achievements of years of social struggles by austerity policies and income redistribution toward the top.**

The TTIP negotiation, officially launched in July 2013 and secretly conducted by the European Commission and US Administration in order to close it by the 2014, presents a framework of heavy deregulation. Main target will not be the already low tariff barriers but the non-tariff ones. These concern safety and quality standards of relevant sectors of every citizen life: food, education and culture, health services, welfare, and labour rights. With the excuse of norms homogenization and the illusion of lifting up European economy we will attend to a fall citizens and environment will pay for in a process toward progressive commodification of public services and commons. A risk understated because of closed-doors negotiations under the pressure of private industries lobbies and without any effective involvement of Parliaments and Congress. And without any adequate information sharing and communication with the citizens.

Among the main goals of the negotiation there is the protection of the investor and of private property thanks to a specific organism for disputes settlement: an actual international arbitrate to which companies could make appeal against Governments that, according to them, interfere with or prevent from their run to profit. Any public regulation protecting social, economic and environmental rights, with the pretext of competition and investments, risk to be defeated by companies and markets, protected by de facto irrevocable judgements. Similar scenarios have already taken place with other free trade agreement such as the NAFTA, or have permitted to an energy corporation, the Vattenfall, to summon the German Government for its decision of closing nuclear power plants.

**Therefore, as Italian movements and civil society organisations, we decided to fight against this political plan whose main goal is the commodification of rights and the protection of markets. We call against every social, political and unionist actor to a common mobilization to stop the negotiation on TTIP. As it happened at the end of the nineties against the Multilateral Agreement on Investments, in the last decade against the Bolkestein Directive and more recently against the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), the agreement that would have attempted to citizens privacy rights and to the free access to the web with the excuse of the fight against "piracy".**

Campaign promoted by: **ALTRAMENTE, ARCI, ASSOCIAZIONE BOTTEGHE DEL MONDO, A SUD, ATTAC ITALIA, COBAS, COMISIÓN EUROPEA DERECHOS HUMANOS Y PUEBLOS ANCESTRALES, COMITATO LAVORATORI CILENI ESILIATI, ECOMAPUCHE – Amicizia con il popolo Mapuche, COMUNE-INFO, COORDINAMENTO NORD SUD DEL MONDO, COSPE, ENNENNE, FAIRWATCH, FONDAZIONE CERCARE ANCORA, FORUM ITALIANO DEI MOVIMENTI PER L'ACQUA, LINK – Coordinamento universitario, MEDICI SENZA CAMICE, MST-ITALIA, MUNICIPIO DEI BENI COMUNI, OSSERVATORIO ITALIANO SULLA SALUTE GLOBALE, RE:COMMON, RETE DELLA CONOSCENZA, REORIENT, RETE DELLA CONOSCENZA, SBILANCIAMOCI, SCUP, SOS GEOTERMIA – Coordinamento dei comitati in difesa dell'Amiata, TRANSFORM! ITALIA, UNIONE DEGLI STUDENTI, UN PONTE PER, YAKU**

## **SOME GOOD REASONS TO STOP THE TTIP**

**Food Security:** European norms on pesticides, GMO, hormones in meat and generally on food quality and security, more restrictive than US and international ones, risks to be banned as “illegal commercial barriers”;

**Water and energy:** those are sectors at risk of privatisation. Every community fighting against it could be accused of market distortion

**Public services:** the TTIP would limit States autonomy in organizing and managing public services such as health system, public transports, education, water services. It also imply a risk for the access to those services for all at benefit of a privatisation that risks to exclude less advantaged people.

**Labour rights:** labour legislation, already affected by drastic deregulation by the austerity policies of the European Union, would be further attacked if considered as “non-tariff barrier” to be removed.

**Finance:** the agreement would imply the impossibility of any control on capital movements and on bank and financial speculation.

**Patents and intellectual property:** defence of property rights on patents would put at risk availability of fundamental goods, such as generic medical treatments and products. Equally defence of intellectual property rights can limit knowledge sharing and arts;

**Fracking:** the fracking, already banned in France because of environmental risks, could become a practice protected by the law. Extractive companies interested in this sector could ask for refunds to the States who prevent from using it. It would imply a violation of the precautionary principle established by the UE supporting economic initiatives dangerous for human, animal and vegetal health, as well as for the environment

**Freedom and the internet:** web giants would try to weaken European norms on personal data protection to reduce them to the almost inexistent level of protection in the States. In this way private companies would be allowed to violate citizens privacy having access to their personal data.

**Democracy:** the treaty would prevent from any possibility of independent choice by the States in the economic, social and environmental field. As a result any intervention and role of local authorities would become meaningless.

**Biofuels:** thanks to the harmonisation of European norms on energy the TTIP would incentivize import of US biomasses which do not respect the minimum limits of greenhouse gas emissions nor other environmental sustainability criteria.

**Rise up against a treaty which prefers the logic of unlimited profit to the protection of inalienable rights, formally stated by European and international conventions, means taking the responsibility of producing a change to the benefit of all and not of the famous few ones!**

**Campaign's web site: [www.stop-ttip-italia.net](http://www.stop-ttip-italia.net)**