



RESOLUTION:

LESSONS FROM THE TTIP NEGOTIATIONS

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting
In Zagreb, Croatia, on the 7th of March 2015

Recognising that:

- Trade policy is a core task of the European Union;
- There have been negotiations about a free trade agreement between the European Union and the United States since July 2013 – under the header of the ‘Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership’ (TTIP);
- The agreement would encompass 50% of world GDP;
- It would lead to an estimated economic growth of about 500 euro per European household per year - according to an estimation cited by the European Commission;¹
- The negotiations about the agreement have lacked in transparency so far, which is apparent inter alia from the fact that:
 - The negotiating mandate that the Foreign Affairs Council gave the European Commission in June 2013 was only made public in August 2014;
 - The European Commission responds slowly to requests for access to documents related to the negotiations;
 - The European Ombudsman has started an inquiry into the lack of transparency during the negotiations;
- The negotiations lack of democratic legitimacy, which is apparent inter alia from the fact that:
 - The involvement of civil society organisations in the negotiations has been quite limited so far;
 - The Commission only appointed a panel of experts in the areas of environment, health, consumers, employees, and various sectors of industry in January 2014 – meanwhile, the negotiations were already in their third round;
 - The European Parliament can only vote in favour or against the agreement, but cannot make any amendments to it.

¹ http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2014/may/tradoc_152462.pdf

Acknowledging that:

- It is one of the core principles of democracy that it must be possible for citizens to hold their elected leaders accountable;
- There are many concerns amongst European citizens about the TTIP negotiations that may not have been sufficiently heard due to the limited involvement of civil society organisations, particularly during the preparation of the negotiations;
- Transparency should be a core working procedure for the EU in order to increase the citizens' trust.

YEPP calls on:

- The European Commission to publish the negotiation mandate as approved by the Foreign Affairs Council as soon as possible as this would no longer harm the ongoing negotiations;
- The European Commission to involve civil society organisations (such as consumer organisations and trade unions) earlier and to a greater extent in future negotiations on free trade agreements;
- The European Commission to publish a list with all the documents related to the negotiations including links to documents that are available publicly, as soon as it would no longer harm the ongoing negotiations;
- The European Commission to publish a list of all organisations and companies whose representatives have spoken with the European Commission about the free trade agreement, as soon as it would no longer harm the ongoing negotiations.