



EPHA contribution – Public Health Concerns on Health Systems in TTIP

Health Systems

- To be able to retain regulatory and organisational autonomy, and to ensure the highest standards of quality frameworks and professional qualifications health, social and education services should remain firmly outside of the scope of the TTIP agreement.
- In case of a 'positive list approach', public services (healthcare, social services, education) should not be included into the list of services covered by TTIP
- In case of a 'negative list approach', public services should be listed in Annex II, as a horizontal exception for public services as it would allow governments to change the governance regimes i.e. move national to private and vice versa
- In order to protect charity healthcare/service provision, health and social services should be defined as any services, government, for profit or privately funded not-for-profit organisations providing services that affect health outcomes.

Good health and social services are crucial for good health outcomes; in many countries government funded services have already been cut back. The Commission has publicly stated that public services are exempt from their TTIP proposals. They define public services as health, education and public services that are government funded and that are not in competition with private health care providers (according to the GATS agreement). One key concern is what happens to other healthcare providers? This in effect opens up the market in **privately funded, not for profit organisations' services** such as; disability services, cancer patient taxi services, charity-funded nurses, old people's homes, hospices, community rehabilitation schemes and all the gamut of services in this area.

Under TTIP, these services will face open competition from international firms and it will not be possible for governments tendering for services to discriminate in favour of local firms who may be preferred by the local community. Once these markets have opened up, it will be up to government regulators to maintain quality frameworks, high levels of professional qualifications and service standards. Under the regulatory convergence mechanism, any new legislation or legislative revisions that are perceived as barriers to transatlantic trade will come under scrutiny. While the EU insist that harmonisation may also push standards up, it remains to be seen if private investors will be agreeing to upwards harmonisation if they are concerned primarily about protecting their investments.