

Protecting public services in TTIP and other EU trade agreements

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Text in EU trade agreements	Meaning in plain English
EU: services considered to be public utilities at a national or local level may be subject to public monopolies or to exclusive rights granted to private operators.	EU governments are free to decide what they consider to be public 'utilities' or services. If they wish, EU governments can organise these services so that just one supplier provides the service – what economists call a 'monopoly'. This single provider can be: • publicly owned ('public monopoly') • a private firm which has the right to offer a particular service ('exclusive rights'). This applies to all service industries, except 2: • telecommunications • computer services.
The EU reserves the right to adopt or maintain any measure with regard to: • the provision of: ○ all education, health and social services which: ▪ receive public funding or state support in any form, ▪ are therefore not considered to be privately funded ○ services relating to the collection, purification, distribution and management of water (drinking water and water for industrial use).	EU governments can regulate certain services in whatever way they choose. This can include the way they: • offer subsidies • choose contractors • decide who can operate or invest in their market. Governments can do so, even if it means they treat EU suppliers or investors differently from ones based in the country signing the trade deal with the EU. These services comprise: • publicly-funded education: ○ primary and secondary schools ○ colleges and universities • publicly-funded healthcare and social services: ○ hospitals ○ ambulances ○ residential health facilities ○ welfare services for: ▪ children ▪ the elderly ▪ other vulnerable groups ○ benefits for disabled people • the supply of water.