

EU-US trade agreement should not undermine EU citizens' rights

MARTÍN DE LA TORRE Victoria

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Today the Socialists and Democrats met with EU and American representatives, experts and union leaders to analyse the impact of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on jobs and growth.



It has been estimated that such an agreement could mean €120 billion in growth for the EU economy and a €90 billion increase for the United States. However, the S&D Group wants to make sure this growth does not come at the expense of protecting labour rights, privacy, health or environmental standards.

S&D president Hannes Swoboda said:

"A trade and investment partnership could have huge benefits on both sides of the Atlantic, by creating jobs and generating new growth. But for this to happen, we need face-to-face negotiations, including dialogue with other regional players and countries it will affect. While we see the potential benefits of such an agreement, we are not willing to sacrifice our social and environmental standards or fundamental rights – including data protection – for the sake of it.

"Transparency throughout the negotiation process is crucial. Therefore, it is high time that the negotiation mandate is finally published and that the subsequent negotiations take place with an adequate level of transparency."

The chairman of the trade committee in the European Parliament, S&D MEP Vital Moreira, said:

"The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership will be much more than a free trade agreement. It will be a game-changer.

"TTIP makes complete sense. All the studies show the huge potential of this agreement in terms of growth and jobs."

S&D MEP and spokesperson on trade Bernd Lange said:

"Access to US public procurement markets and the development of common technical standards in particular can provide great opportunities for EU industry and jobs.

"The EU Commission must ensure that the agreement will promote high labour rights standards as well as high standards for consumer and data protection."

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EU-US TRADE AGREEMENT | TTIP JOBS & GROWTH?



WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2013 15:00 - 18:30

ROOM ALTIERO SPINELLI A3G-2
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PANEL I.

TTIP FROM A POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

PANEL II:

TTIP AND LABOUR RIGHTS - CHANCE OR RISK?

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Wednesday 16 October 2013 15:00 - 18:30 European Parliament, Brussels - Altiero Spinelli (ASP) 3G2

Interpretation: EN, FR, DE, ES, IT, PT

Programme:

15:00 Welcome and Introduction by S&D Group Vice President Véronique DE KEYSER

15:15 Statement by Mr Ignacio GARCIA BERCERO - Director at the DG Trade of the European Commission, EU Chief Negotiator for the TTIP

15:30 PANEL I: TTIP from a political perspective

Moderator: Laura Shields

Elena BRYAN, Senior Trade Representative at the US Mission to the European Union

Vital MOREIRA MEP - S&D Group Chair of the Committee on International Trade and Rapport of the Report on EU-US Trade agreement TTIP

16:00 Statement by S&D Group President Hannes SWOBODA

16:15 Debate Q&A

17:05 PANEL II TTIP and labour rights - chance or risk?

Moderator: Laura Shields

Celeste DRAKE - Trade & Globalization Policy Specialist at the AFL-CIO

Judith KIRTON-DARLING - ETUC, Confederal Secretary

17:25 Debate Q&A

18:15 Conclusions by Bernd LANGE MEP, S&D Coordinator of the Committee on International Trade

18:30 Reception