Sue Stevens – a World Development Movement member in Devon 21st August 2015

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Dear DDE Supporter

I am writing to you today as a World Development Member to tell you about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement (TTIP) which is in the process of being negotiated between the USA and the EU with the stated intention of ‘loosening barriers to trade’ in services between the two areas. Included is an Investor Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism which will allow companies to challenge national protection policies if this is seen as a barrier to their profitability. Yet these ‘barriers’ are in reality some of our most prized social standards and environmental regulations, such as labour rights, food safety rules (including restrictions on GMOs), regulations on the use of toxic chemicals, digital privacy laws and even new banking safeguards introduced to prevent a repeat of the 2008 financial crisis.

**The stakes, in other words, could not be higher. War on Want http://www.waronwant.org/campaigns/trade-justice**

Campaign groups including the World Development Movement plus other NGOs and a number of Trade Unions are calling for the NHS and other public services to be taken out of the TTIP, warning that the deal could bring privatisation of health and education in the UK. Chief EU negotiator, Ignacio Garcia Bercero, claimed that the future of the NHS was safe, but campaigners have countered his claims, pointing out that the deal could allow private companies to sue a future UK government if it reversed privatisation measures already made possible in the NHS in England under the 2012 Health and Social Care Act. The Slovak government has already been sued under a legal system similar to that proposed by TTIP for reversing health privatisation policies. **http://www.wdm.org.uk/trade-campaign/transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-ttip**

The European Commission has claimed the deal would bring people in the UK and the rest of Europe £2 per person per week, but a European Commission study has also predicted that one million people across the UK, Europe and the US could lose their jobs.

Some of you may remember the previous MAI (Multilateral Agreement on Investment) and GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) campaigns and you would be right to think here we go again! The target again is services, which are often publicly provided now, but the push is for them to be transferred to private company ownership.

A number of groups, nationally and internationally, have come together within the nottip Campaign ([www.nottip.org.uk](http://www.nottip.org.uk)) to plan various events in the autumn against the proposals. We would like to bring together the local branches of organisations which are already involved, such as Friends of the Earth, The Green Party, War on Want and others to campaign together. We are holding a meeting with speakers to find out more about the issue and prepare our local campaign - **DDE at the Global Centre** **Thursday 2nd October 1pm for a topical discussion at World at Lunch followed later by a campaign planning meeting at 6pm.** This planning meeting is in preparation for a national Day of Action on Saturday 11th October.

Please contact me if you would like to be involved in this campaign: if you will be attending the planning meetings or be willing to participate in the Day of Action.

Many thanks

Sue Stevens