

# **Transatlantic Free Trade Agreement symposium: what is at stake?**

## **European Perspectives**

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## **The European context**

- **A trade deal promoted as a way out of the multi-fold crisis**
  - Recession, austerity, deregulation
  - Growing public distrust
    - Challenges to austerity
    - Rise of the extremes
    - “ACTA syndrome”
    - NSA revelations
- **A “new” transatlantic potential?**



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# Whose partnership is this?

## ○ Secrecy brings suspicions

- Keeping civil society away in the current context raises questions as to who will benefit this agreement
- Access to text relies on leaks, limited access for EU Parliament itself

## ○ TTIP or TAFTA?

- Experiences of FTAs have raised concerns in civil society
  - The spectrum of specific rights for investors and corporations (ISDS)
  - Recent experience in 'developed' countries (Australia, Canada)
  - Concerns about consequences for citizens' rights and public budgets

## **Content: concerns about attacks on regulatory standards**

- **All aspects of citizens' lives at stake, on both sides of the Atlantic**
  - Food, environment, energy, chemicals...
  - Concerns around “regulatory convergence” and “mutual recognition”
- **Shared worldwide challenges ahead of us: climate and environment crises**
  - Challenge of protecting established rights
    - Precautionary principle, polluter-pays principle
  - Aim higher! Transition towards sustainable societies is now!

# **The need for a transatlantic civil society alliance**

- **Contexts might be different but challenges are similar**
  - Open up the process
  - A “fair” trade agreement that promotes better rights and standards for citizens
  - An ambitious agreement that contributes to the transition needed to tackle the multiple crises, including by restructuring trade models
- **Next steps: working together**
  - Civil society will be watching
  - Readiness to work in solidarity across the Atlantic and across sectors



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