



European Parliament press seminar

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

Tuesday 12 May and Wednesday 13 May 2015
European Parliament, Brussels

Programme

#EPonTTIP

Tuesday 12 May

Paul Henri Spaak building (PHS) - room 4B001

- 13:30 **Arrival and registration**
- 14:15 - 14:30 **Opening and introduction**
- Ioannis Darmis, head of Media Services Unit
- Sanne De Ryck, EP press officer
- 14:30 - 14:50 **Technical briefing** (*off the record*)
- Felix Lutz (administrator, EP International Trade Committee - INTA)
- Agnese Krivade (EP press officer)
- 14:50 - 15:20 **European Commission** (*off the record*)
- Hiddo Houben, EU deputy chief negotiator on TTIP, European Commission, DG TRADE
Moderated by Ioannis Darmis, head of Media Services Unit
- 15:20 -15:35 **Coffee break**
- 15:35 - 16:30 **EP opinion committee rapporteurs: first panel**
- Dita Charanzová (ALDE, CZ), Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection
- Andreas Schwab (EPP, DE), Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection
- Dietmar Köster (S&D, DE), Committee on Legal Affairs
Moderated by Jack Blackwell, EP press officer
- 16:35 - 17:30 **EP opinion committee rapporteurs: second panel**
- Marian Harkin (ALDE, IE), Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
- Jan Philipp Albrecht (Greens/EFA, DE), Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice & Home Affairs
- Bart Staes (Greens/EFA, BE), Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
Moderated by Jack Blackwell, EP press officer
- 17:30 Close day one, followed by reception
Members' restaurant salon, Altiero Spinelli building ground floor

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Tuesday 12 May (morning) and Wednesday 13 May (afternoon)

Reporting time / time for interviews with national MEPs



Wednesday 13 May

Paul Henri Spaak building (PHS) - room 1A002

8:40 **Arrival**

09:00 - 10:00 **Stakeholders panel**

- Pascal Kerneis (European Services Forum)
- Luisa Santos (BusinessEurope)
- Arnaud Petit (COPA-COGECA - European farmers' association)
- Johannes Kleis (BEUC - European consumers' association)

Moderated by Sanne De Ryck, EP press officer

10:00 - 10:10 **Coffee break**

10:15 - 12:00 **Panel of MEPs: rapporteur & shadow rapporteurs of International Trade Committee**

- Bernd Lange (S&D, DE), rapporteur
- Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl (EPP, DE), shadow rapporteur
- Emma McClarkin (ECR, UK), shadow rapporteur
- Marietje Schaake (ALDE, NL), shadow rapporteur
- Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL, DE), shadow rapporteur
- Yannick Jadot (Greens/EFA, FR), shadow rapporteur
- Tiziana Beghin (EFDD, IT), shadow rapporteur

Moderated by Jaume Duch, European Parliament Spokesman, Director of Media

12:00 - 12:15 **Concluding remarks by rapporteur, Bernd Lange**

12:15 Close, followed by reception

Members' restaurant salon, Altiero Spinelli building ground floor

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Tuesday 12 May (morning) and Wednesday 13 May (afternoon)

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European Parliament press seminar on TTIP

On 12-13 May in Brussels, the European Parliament press service is holding a seminar for journalists on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), a trade agreement that cannot come into effect without Parliament's approval.

Members of the EP International Trade Committee and 14 other parliamentary committees are currently preparing a draft resolution designed to send a clear message as to whether in Parliament's view the TTIP negotiations are moving in the right direction and what the negotiators must take into account to reach a deal that can ultimately win Parliament's backing.

The seminar takes place shortly before the vote on the draft resolution by the Trade Committee (28 May), with the subsequent vote by the full Parliament following in early June, and is thus a good moment for journalists to discuss the issues with MEPs, the Commission and stakeholders.

Parliament's role in the TTIP talks

The TTIP negotiations with the USA, which have been in progress since July 2013, are being conducted by the European Commission on the basis of a mandate laid down by the EU's Council of Ministers. The Commission has a legal obligation to keep MEPs fully informed about all stages of the negotiations. Parliament is following the talks closely to ensure the agreement's benefits do not come at an unacceptable cost and that a result is achieved which is satisfactory for Europe's citizens.

MEPs, who are not part of the EU negotiating team but exercise parliamentary oversight over the Commission as it conducts the negotiations, can influence the process through the abovementioned resolution, which will spell out Parliament's main expectations and concerns. MEPs' views have to be taken into account because, once the talks are completed, the final negotiated agreement will need Parliament's formal consent, as well as the backing of EU member countries, before it can enter into force.

What's at stake in TTIP?

The principal aim of TTIP is to remove trade barriers across economic sectors, potentially leading to the world's largest bilateral free-trade area. The deal could add up to 0.5% of annual GDP growth in the USA and nearly 1% in the EU, according to some estimates. It has the potential to set transatlantic rules for trade-related policy areas, which would have a worldwide impact, allowing the EU and the US to shape globalisation better. TTIP thus offers a unique opportunity to deepen the transatlantic partnership in the economic sphere and boost US and European competitiveness vis-à-vis the world's emerging economic powerhouses.

On the other hand, there are concerns about the deal's possible impact on protection for workers, consumers and the environment as well as on data privacy and culture. In addition, major interest has focused on the Investor-State Dispute Settlement clause, which could allow foreign investors to sue a host government if evidence is found that the host government treated foreign investors unfairly, thereby jeopardising their investment.

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