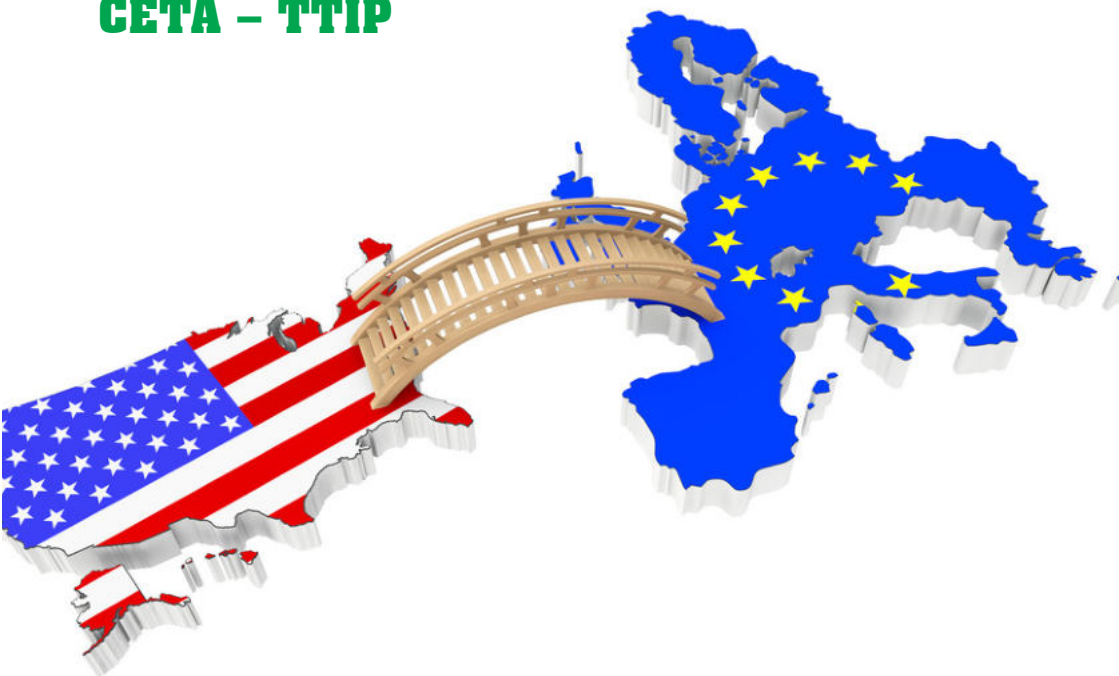


VOICE OF THE RURAL WORLD

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THE TRANSATLANTIC AGREEMENTS: CETA – TTIP



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the member movements belonging or not to the Federation

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Dear Readers,

Greetings from International Secretariat!

This edition of VMR brings you the a critical analysis about the ongoing discussion on TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership). The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a major new deal being negotiated behind closed doors between the EU and USA. As a bi-lateral trade agreement, TTIP is about reducing/removing the regulatory ‘barriers’ which restrict the potential profits to be made by transnational corporations.” These ‘hindrances’ include labor rights, food safety rules (including limitations on GMOs), environmental and health restrictions, such as the use of toxic chemicals, as well as regulations on digital privacy, banking safeguards and the sovereign powers of individual nations.

TTIP is marketed as the answer to recession in Europe and the USA, with bogus promises of growth and jobs. Yet the official study commissioned at the start of the talks calculated that at least 1 million people will lose their jobs in the EU and USA as a direct result of TTIP. With unemployment already at record levels in much of Europe, these people will find it impossible to get new jobs. As said by John Hilary, Executive Director of campaign group War on Want: “It is an assault on European and US societies by transnational corporations. Since before TTIP negotiations began, the process has been secretive and undemocratic. This secrecy is on-going, with nearly all information on negotiations coming from leaked documents and Freedom of Information requests.

Here are some reasons why we should be scared of TTIP:

- Privatization of public services such as water supply and sanitation, health services and education – for profit;
- Jeopardy of public health – as practices which are legal in the US would also be



legalized in Europe, such as genetically modified food production, and hormone treatments of livestock and poultry;

- Endangering small-scale agriculture, as it would favor large agro-corporations over family farming;
- The universal right of foreign corporations to sue countries for compensation in secret arbitrary courts for foregone profits in case governments pass laws that could reduce profits

The TTIP is practically irreversible. Once agreed and signed by Brussels and Washington, the treaty would be enforced in all EU members and could only be amended or revoked by agreement of all 28 EU members and the US. This would almost be impossible. An individual 'sovereign' EU member government could no longer decide to drop out of the agreement if and when it realizes that the TTIP works against its public interest, since it is not the individual country that signs the TTIP, but the EU.

If the proposed TTIP combined with the proposed TTP would be ratified and signed, it would be like a corporate empire taking over the world, especially Europe and Asia – less China and Russia. The United States is already in the claws of transnationals. The negotiations on the treaty were expected to be over by the end of 2014, however they are still in progress. The undecided issues are planned to be settled before the end of Barack Obama's presidential term

The TTIP has, however, been met with quite fierce opposition in Europe, especially in France and Germany. Thousands of protesters took to streets in the German city of Hannover in April, opposing the deal in fear it would put corporate interest before the national.

TTIP is not just about the EU and USA. Negotiators say that TTIP will set the standard for all future trade and investment rules across the world. This means that TTIP will enshrine the rights of transnational corporations over and above the needs of people and the planet, forever. We cannot allow that to happen. Read more details in the main article

Enjoy your reading

George Dixon Fernandez
Secretary General



THE TRANSATLANTIC AGREEMENTS: CETA – TTIP



The CETA (Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement), is a treaty between the Canada and the European Union, whose negotiations were concluded on October 18, 2013 and which was signed on September 26, 2014. This treaty covers most aspect of the bilateral economic relationship, including products and services, investments and Governments' procurements. Just like TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), agreement on trade and investment between the European Union and the United States, which starts from the assumption that rules protecting health, workers or the environment are obstacles to trade, and thus to lower. Negotiated between the EU and the Canada in certain opacity, it could be signed soon, even before the TTIP, which would be a way to get this agreement.

Before its implementation, the text of the agreement should however be approved by the 10 Canadian provinces as well as by the 28 States of the EU...

To try to understand...

Since the launch of the negotiations, the debate on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the European Union and the United States has sunk in a lot of ink and has resulted in numerous meetings, protests... This draft agreement for free trade and investment aims to further liberalize trade between the United States and the European Union by



dismantling customs duties and dealing with regulations and standards. This agreement should guarantee the fate of the European and North American economies in a same ultraliberal allegiance to the profits of the multinationals.

No consultation of the populations was held on the opportunity to begin these negotiations. Instead, citizens are kept apart from discussions taking place in the strictest confidentiality between a handful of negotiators, non-elected experts and invited lobbyists.



Therefore, millions of citizens have expressed their opposition to this Treaty when they heard about it. It is a project designed by transnational companies, which had already suggested it more than 20 years ago, anticipating that it is an instrument aimed at lowering barriers to trade, including the overambitious rules protecting health, workers or the environment.

But less talked of the CETA, younger brother of the TTIP negotiated on the same basis. If it was signed and ratified, CETA would be the first treaty of the new generation between the EU and a G7 countries exceeding the conventional commercial aspects and directly addressing the regulations. What should be understood is that this Treaty goes well beyond trade aspects and, based on the regulation, its effects would be even more harmful.

What are the issues?

First issue: the liberalization of services, via negative-list approach

The CETA would be the first European Treaty containing a mechanism for settlement of disputes between investors and States (ISDS). This mechanism already exists in more than 2.500 treaties, mainly between rich countries and developing countries. But be aware that the threat to bring an arbitration procedure may be sufficient to roll back a draft of new legislation, before even that it is proposed... Furthermore, the use of foreign affiliates to gain access to the system multiplies the potential impact of the CETA, because its use would not only be reserved for Canadian business.



81% US companies active in Europe have subsidiaries in the Canada and could therefore start arbitration procedures without even waiting for the TTIP.

The CETA would also be the first European Treaty to include an approach to liberalization of services via “negative lists “. This means that all categories of service activities (70% of the European economy) will be open to competition, with the exception of services explicitly excluded.

Beyond the democratic issue that this raises, an important analytical work remains to do concerning the negative lists included in the CETA by each of the States. Are parliaments informed of the sectors excluded by their Government in the negotiation? What impact on what each Member State defines as public service and general interest? Germany for example is the only country to have protected all of its system of social security from this mechanism. What about other countries? This is only one of the many questions raised by reading the 334 pages of negative lists of the CETA.

2nd issue: the establishment of a mechanism for regulatory cooperation

The CETA also provides for setting up a mechanism for regulatory cooperation, aimed at “reducing unnecessary regulatory differences.” It would establish a new institution, regulatory cooperation Forum, at which the proposed regulations should be provided upstream of the legislative process. It is planned to consult stakeholders but, in reality, it appears that only representatives of large companies will have way to chapter, for the simple reason that they have considerably more resources than the small and middle enterprises and organizations defending the general interest.

3rd issue: the opening of trade in goods and services to competition

The CETA also plans to further open the trade in goods and services to competition without stand of solid common rights, thus putting in competition and pressure on workers, social and environmental systems.

4th issue and the following!

In the opacity and complexity of this Treaty, there remain many questions. What will be the impact of the commitment, if the Treaty passes, to open public procurement at all levels of power, to international competition?



What will be the possibility still possible for local authorities to promote the development and local employment? How can small-scale farmers cope with market which would open and would accept quotas for the import of meat from Canada and then the USA, even not mentioning various health standards? What protection can we guarantee with regard to the use of GMOs?

The CETA and the TTIP

We have just seen it, CETA would be the horse of Troy of TTIP, which aims to become the largest market in the world.

The Transatlantic Partnership for Trade and Investment could have major consequences for agriculture and food production in the European Union. The business lobbies are pressing on both sides of the Atlantic to



get a better access to markets, but the standards for food production in Europe and the United States differ for food safety, animal welfare and the protection of the environment. Indeed, in the United States, the Government and producer's organizations ask openly a weakening of protective measures in areas such as the authorization of GMOs, safety rules relative to GMOs and bans on hormones and chemical antimicrobial rinse procedures in meat production.

It may also have such negative consequences on the environment and the climate. At a time when all Governments signed the COP 21 agreements to reduce CO2 emissions, the ISDS mechanism would ruin the efforts of countries. Just as for the CETA, the mechanism for settlement of disputes between an investor and a State allows big businesses the right to sue Governments if they feel that their profits are affected by new laws. ISDS should not only cancel laws currently promoting climate justice, but also act as deterrent, that would waive the Governments to pass environmental laws



in order to escape the risk of prosecution.

Social risks are also present: United States have ratified only two of the eight fundamental ILO standards, while all EU member countries have ratified all the eight. Concerning the rights of collective representation of workers, there is also danger: the logic of transatlantic market involves erasing total barriers to the exchange between the two continents for goods and services, the location of the production decisions will be on the criteria of cost, and multinational firms will take decisions centrally. The participation rights of the workers, the famous rights to information and consultation of enterprises councils would be stopped at the border. The transatlantic rapprochement means a lessening of workers' rights even if these are guaranteed in European constitutions and in the Charter of fundamental rights.

The list does not stop there: public services, culture, free circulation of people... are also endangered by this proposed treaty. We invite you to join or at least to be aware of everything what is in stake visiting the site www.collectifstopafta.org that makes the point on all the areas concerned.

The position of the European Council

The European Council, composed of all of the heads of State of the 28, now 27, has mandated the European Commission to negotiate free trade agreements. Legally, the Commission has all latitude to conduct negotiations and conclude agreements with other countries, without having to consult national parliaments after the vote of the European Parliament. However, more and more national parliaments take position and would like to postpone these negotiations.

On the other hand, the European Commissioner for trade, Cecilia Malmström, unveiled that all country members had confirmed at the last European Council in Brussels "that we must continue the negotiations". "We are committed to continue these negotiations. "They are important for Europe, for our economy, for our employments, for our entrepreneurs, for our consumers, and it has a lot of meaning to sign this treaty even being 27", said the Commissioner. "Europe is the largest market in the world. We will remain in this position, even without the United Kingdom", she insisted, stating that she was



returning from the United States where she had participated in a meeting on the TAFTA (or TTIP) planned for a long time. “Americans are determined to continue the negotiations with us,” assured the Commissioner, stressing that both sides were working very intensely “to push forward negotiations” in order to find an agreement before the end of the mandate of President Barack Obama in January 2017.

The president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, expressed that he would be in favor of the adoption of the free trade Treaty of EU-Canada (CETA) without asking the opinion of the national parliaments. “I said clearly yesterday that the Commission came to the conclusion because of a legal analysis that this is not a “mixed agreement”, said M. Juncker, at a press conference after the first meeting of the 27 Member States of the EU without Great Britain, in Brussels.

In European jargon, when an agreement is ‘mixed’, it means that it is both concluded by the European Commission - which negotiates and finalizes the international agreement - and by the Member States. As a result, the national parliaments must give their approval in addition to the European Parliament.

“The agreement that we concluded with the Canada is the best trade agreement that the EU has ever concluded,” said M. Juncker.

On May 13, 2016, the 28 Member States of the EU had insisted that this Treaty concluded between the Union and the Canada (CETA) enters into force only after a green light from the national parliaments.

The European Commission and the Member States of the EU aim to sign this agreement at the end of October at a Summit in Brussels with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. And it should come into effect in 2017.

And thereafter...

Today, a series of appointments are intended to sign these agreements. But thanks to the mobilization of citizen’s collectives, communes, which are declared out of TTIP, of the opposition of certain political parties the probability of passing “in force” shrinks more. The question now is that this free trade agreement should be adopted by 38 and regional parliaments of the Member States of the EU.



But the threat of the possibility that the European Parliament ratifies provisionally the CETA is still present.

The position of the citizens

Everywhere in Europe, people are mobilizing. But few people really know the contents of these treaties, the bargaining schedule and real issues. This is why we need to continue the mobilization, everywhere where we can. Everywhere groups are created to try to put it all in light and for the understanding of all. And the first results are achieved since more and more national Governments question, if not on the relevance of treaties, at least on the implementation agenda...

Will these parliaments have the 'courage' to override the expression of citizens who in all the Union countries refuse - or at least discouraged - the national Governments to sign the free trade treaties?

Then if we want to defend our democratic principles, continue to believe in a Europe of the citizens, the mobilization must not falter and we need to keep us inform, mobilize and support those who are opposed to negotiations to ensure that the general interest prevails and not that of multinationals, which would be the biggest beneficiaries of these treaties. The intuition of the fathers of Europe was to create a Europe of the Nations. Since its inception, this intuition and its primary objectives allowed themselves to be cached up by the market. It is time to react and to return to these first principles for more justice, to preserve the rights of the citizens, for the sustainable development of the planet. The watchword is therefore not to the CETA, no to the TTIP.



FIMARC NEWS

FIMARC CAMPAIGNS DURING WORLD FOOD DAY

Context

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations celebrates World Food Day each year on 16 October, the day on which the Organization was founded in 1945 in order to heighten public awareness of the problem of hunger in the world, to strengthen international and national solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty, and to encourage the participation of rural people, particularly women and the least privileged categories, in decisions and activities influencing their living conditions. FIMARC has been actively involved in supporting this call for many years and last year we have made a call to make some pragmatic actions in various countries in this regard. At the occasion of the World Food Day, FIMARC publishes every year a communication or a declaration to call the movements to take up some concrete actions to eradicate hunger and poverty. These actions are organized in different levels. The world food day of 2015 was celebrated on 16 October with the main theme "Social Protection and Agriculture –Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty ". The World Food Day, October 16th, has become one main action day of FIMARC. Each year FIMARC prepares call for actions and formulates material that is used by rural groups all over the world in order to hold public activities, information campaigns or seminars. FIMARC published

and distribute awareness raising materials to the national movements and local groups to support in coordinating their actions.

About 73 percent of the world population have no access to adequate social protection (ILO, 2014). A majority of people without social protection live in the rural areas of developing countries, many of them dependent on agriculture to make a living. Poor rural households are already constrained by limited access to resources, low agricultural productivity and poorly functioning markets, which reduce their ability to cope with economic and natural risks and shocks that threaten their livelihoods.



In the absence of social protection, poor households, which are already constrained by limited access to resources and services, are at constant risk of hunger and poverty,

especially when faced with a crisis or shock of any nature. Social protection is critical in such cases because, the economic or in-kind support it provides prevents people from hunger in the short term. Moreover, by stimulating production, social protection provides greater income stability and ability to manage risk, thus contributing to reducing poverty and food insecurity in the longer-term

Providing them with access to social protection helps them to better manage the social and economic risks and environmental threats they are exposed to. Through direct income support to the most vulnerable households, social protection helps alleviate extreme poverty and overcome food insecurity. At the same time, by providing more income security and investing in rural livelihoods, social protection can contribute to improve agricultural productivity, stimulate local economic development, build resilience, encourage sustainable natural resource uses and promote social inclusion.

If properly designed, social protection tends to benefit women and promotes their economic and social empowerment. Similarly, it can also benefit children and youth, as social protection helps improve nutrition and health outcomes inasmuch as household income security allows young people to stay in school longer, and cash for work programs help enhance employment opportunities for youth.

Social protection exists when governments develop policies and programs to address economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities to food insecurity and

poverty. Through cash transfers, vouchers, insurances and in-kind contributions, social protection programs enhance the income, status and capacities of poor and vulnerable people. Social protection improves people's access to health care and other social services, enabling them to sustainably provide for themselves and their family members.

World Food Day is an occasion to focus the world's attention on the crucial role played by social protection in eradicating hunger and poverty. This is why in connection with the World Food Day 2015, FIMARC called upon all the member movements around the world to take up concrete actions in their movements in relation to the theme of the year. Following were some of the proposed actions in that regard:

- Organize sessions with a view to raise the debate on Social Protection in Agriculture
- Organize meetings with politicians and local self-governments to demand social protection schemes for the farmers and rural people
- Share the information about the existing viable social protections measures/Schemes
- Facilitate dialogues with Banks, Insurance companies and government agencies in your locality to collect data and to tap social protection schemes
- one day volunteer work to save money and to support hunger eradication

projects in your own places or send to the FIMARC World Food Day fund to support other people who are in need around the world

- Make any solidarity action like fasting to collect money to support the needy or to provide one nutritious meal to the hunger
- Organize Corner meetings ,press conference , press release or demonstrations on the topic to raise the awareness of the society
- Take initiative for the knowledge generation and dissemination at the local, national levels through the collection and compilation of information, data and good practices on the impact of social protection schemes on rural poverty, food and nutrition security.

During this world food day of 2015, FIMARC requested all its member movements to have deep reflections, actions to raise the debate on Social Protection in Agriculture all over the world and to Lobby for the policies that foster Social Protection and we urged all the members to organise a common action day. In this report let me high light five concrete actions organized by some of the FIMARC movements:

1. **MARC Cameroun**-had organized a meeting with National Insurance Company to have social protection schemes and crop Insurance for farmers in their villages.
2. **DECESE Kenya** organized “field days “and demonstration of food and crops during WFD. Desece hosted

300 people and spoke about Family Farming and contacted with local Banks to organize insurance schemes for the farmers. They also organized study days to discuss about the topics of VMR and translated VMR in local languages and more over organized a competition on neglected crops and received first price of 1000 Euros for making a cake made of Cassava

3. **FIMARC, India** in Tamil Nadu felt that rice and wheat are being imposed and politicised every day there are systematic attempts to destroy the nutritious and traditional crops in the southern countries like millets, lentils, pulses and grams as a means to promote rice and wheat. There fore we had decided to develop the production of traditional crops in our area. There fore we brought together our organic farmers to share their traditional seeds among themselves and multiply them in their homestead lands and common lands. There were nearly 150 participants in this event who shared their seeds and experiences of traditional farming.

4. **BSDF Bangladesh** organized a forum on Social Protection in Agriculture in collaboration with World Food Programme.





**WORLD FOOD DAY
COMMEMORATIONS, CARAM-
ZAMBIA. HOSTED IN PETAUKE
DISTRICT EASTERN PROVINCE OF
ZAMBIA**

From 14-16 October 2015 CARAM-ZAMBIA organized three days forum on social protection in Agriculture. Zambia has fallen behind other countries in agriculture. There was drought in the country during the last three years. Unfortunately, the possibility for diversity that nature has bestowed upon Zambia has been suppressed by heavily top sided economic policy of the past Government. In particular Government action – started by UNIP and continued by MMD which provides fertilizer and seed input subsidies and delivery, extension services and a guaranteed market for just a single crop-maize. As a result maize is produced even in low –yield and risky areas where it should not be grown at all. But Peasant farmers lack access to the finances and have become dependent on subsidized maize production. Accordingly Zambia grows more maize than the nation need in normal years. As to be expected maize subsidies and guaranteed marketing are highly politicized. It was the maize marketing system that was the major factor brought down the UNIP Government in 1991. The Government went broke when copper prices fell and maize subsidies kept increasing under political pressure.

Marketing: The Government stopped buying maize with cash, they are buying on credit. Again they have reduced the number of packs of fertilizer two bags per person per year.

Poverty; The Government is trying by all means to help the poor peasant farmers to reduce poverty. Social Cash Transfer was introduced in order to help those who are vulnerable.

Schemes; Many CARAM Farmers have got schemes but they are lacking dams, equipment for farming as you know that there isn't enough rainfall these days .

Hunger eradication project has been introduced in Basic schools as start (one meal per day) which is not enough.

Challenges: No good market for soya beans and other crops.

Plan: To look for some investors who can Import Soya Beans from Zambia especially from CARAM farmers (Extract from the report by Arnold Kawendama Coordinator CARAM-Zambia)

**MEETING WITH VATICAN
DICASTERIES**

FIMARC Bureau members (Wolfgang Scharl, George Fernandez and Jean Claude Germon) had meetings with different Dicasteries of Vatican such as Pontifical Council for Justice and peace, Pontifical Council for Laity and Pontifical Council for Migrants in Rome in October 2015.

WORLD FOOD DAY PROGRAMS



MEETING WITH VATICAN DICASTERIES



Meeting with Pontifical Council
for Justice and Peace

Meeting with Pontifical Council
for Migrants and Itinerant People

Meeting with Pontifical Council
for Laity

VMR

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