

Thank you for the comprehensive reply.

I will put on my website: Envirowatch.Eu

Ciao! Ciao!

Klaus (Greek: Victory of the People) Engr

Envirowatch.Eu

-----Original Message----- From: contact@derekvaughanmep.org.uk

Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 4:29 PM

To: Engr Klaus Armstrong-Braun

Subject: RE: Will you prevent corporations suing our government?

Dear Engr,

Thank you for contacting me regarding TTIP and for getting involved in this important campaign. Let me reassure you that as a Labour MEP, I am fully opposed to ISDS and will vote accordingly on June 10th. The votes on Wednesday in the European Parliament on TTIP aim at giving a clear view from the European Parliament to EU negotiators on what would or would not be acceptable to MEPs in the final TTIP deal. The vote will be a guide to them as they negotiate TTIP over the coming years.

This is not a vote for or against TTIP itself. Only once the final text is presented to the European Parliament will MEPs have the chance to support or oppose the deal. Until this happens - and it will probably take years before negotiations are concluded - there is no TTIP to vote for or against. MEPs have no formal powers while trade negotiations are ongoing: we can only vote yes or no to the entire deal once negotiations are concluded. Crucially, we cannot stop negotiations either. So we will judge the TTIP by its merits, and in the meantime try to influence the negotiations so that all of our concerns are properly addressed.

Last week Labour MEPs supported a report by the trade committee, which is the text that will be put to vote in the European Parliament on June 10th. The text includes key protections for the NHS and public services and binding labour and environmental safeguards. It also clearly states that we will not accept any lowering of our food standards.

Importantly, it states that we trust national courts in the case of investor protection disputes, as opposed to special ISDS tribunals. The report doesn't go far enough on ISDS, but it is an important step in the right direction. We will now try to strengthen the reports' provisions against ISDS, to make it absolutely clear that the European Parliament refuses to have it in TTIP.

Labour MEPs have therefore tabled amendments that explicitly rule out ISDS from any trade deal with the US. The amendments read as follows (in italics):

Amendment 27

"...to ensure that foreign investors are treated in a non-discriminatory fashion and have a fair opportunity to seek and achieve redress of grievances, while benefiting from no greater rights than domestic investors; to oppose the inclusion of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) in TTIP, as other options to enforce investment protection are available, such as domestic remedies..."

Amendment 115

"... to propose a permanent solution for resolving disputes between investors and states – without the use of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) private arbitration – which is subject to democratic principles and scrutiny..."

For more information on TTIP, ISDS and what we are trying to achieve, see:

<http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2015/05/peoples-concerns-over-ttip-must-be-heard>

<http://labourlist.org/2015/06/how-do-you-build-a-majority-against-secret-tribunals-for-multinationals-in-the-european-parliament/>

<http://leftfootforward.org/2015/06/we-must-engage-with-ttip-or-else-risk-being-shut-out/>

Trade is neither bad nor good, but there is good trade and bad trade. Labour is firmly committed to changing the rules of global trade, for the benefit of the people and the planet. We stand for fair trade rather than free trade. We want to put an end to social dumping, protect jobs and wages at home while promoting human rights abroad and rebalance north-south relations. To do that, we must seize every opportunity we have to set a new agenda. TTIP represents such an opportunity, and that's why Labour is not ruling it out at this stage. If we fail to get the agreement that we want, we can always veto the deal in the end. But there would be no excuse for not trying. On Wednesday, together with my Labour colleagues, I will vote to try to reset the TTIP agenda.

Thank you for contacting me with your concerns Engr.

Kind regards,

Derek Vaughan MEP
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-----Original Message-----

From: Engr Klaus Armstrong-Braun [mailto:armstrongbraunklaus1@mail128-130.atl41.mandrillapp.com]
On Behalf Of Engr Klaus Armstrong-Braun
Sent: 06 June 2015 14:33

To: contact@derekvaughanmep.org.uk; kayswinburnemep@welshconservatives.com;
jill.evans@europarl.europa.eu; nathan.gill@europarl.europa.eu

Subject: Will you prevent corporations suing our government?

Dear Derek Vaughan, Dr Kay Swinburne, Jill Evans, and Nathan Gill,

I'm concerned about the TTIP trade deal, and in particular, the right for corporations to sue our government if our laws dent their profits - the part of the deal known as the Investor State Dispute Settlement - ISDS.

Will you oppose TTIP at the resolution vote on June 10th? Will you also vote for Amendment 27 to scrap ISDS from TTIP?

Please represent the views of your constituents next week.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely,

Engr Klaus Armstrong-Braun

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