



AN COMHCHOISTE UM GHNÓTHAÍ AN AONTAIS EORPAIGH
AN CION POLAITIÚIL MAIDIR LE
AN CHOMHPHÁIRTÍOCHT THRASATLANTACH TRÁDÁLA AGUS INFHEISTÍOCHTA

IÚIL 2014

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION ON
THE TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

JULY 2014

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1	PAGE
REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE	3
PART 2	
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION ON THE TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP	4

PART 1

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

Introduction

1. The Joint Committee considered the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) to be of sufficient importance that it forms part of its work programme for 2014, in view of the potential impact it may have on the Irish and EU economy.
2. The Joint Committee thought it timely to review the progress on the negotiations on TTIP at this point.
3. On 27 May 2014, the Joint Committee discussed the negotiations on TTIP with, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mr. Richard Bruton TD.
4. On 5 June 2014, the Joint Committee met with representatives from Ibec, the Irish Exporters Association and the Austrian Foundation for Development Research to discuss the opportunities and challenges presented by TTIP.
5. The Joint Committee wishes to thank the Minister and the other stakeholders and experts for their assistance in relation to the Committee's work on this significant issue.

Decision of the Joint Committee

6. On 5 June 2014, the Joint Committee agreed to provide a political contribution to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and to the European Commission on this important issue. The contribution, in Part 2 of this Report, was agreed on 8 July 2014 and is hereby formally communicated to the Minister and the European Commission for consideration and response. The Report will also be laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas.



Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman

PART 2

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION ON THE TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

The following are the observations and recommendations of the Joint Committee, based on its consideration of the potential impact of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The Joint Committee:-

1. Is of the opinion that the successful completion of negotiations on TTIP could lead to wide-ranging benefits to Ireland, including the potential for increased growth and employment opportunities, and therefore welcomes, in broad terms, this initiative;
2. Recognises that the TTIP initiative has the support of the Irish government, Irish business and Irish exporters;
3. Believes, however, that the trade and investment agreement may pose significant challenges for recession-weakened European economies;
4. Recognises that TTIP may lead to job displacement, loss of employment, as well as new trade and employment opportunities;
5. Welcomes the proposed study of the economic impacts on Ireland of such a trade agreement to be carried out on the initiative of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. Expects the study to be wide-ranging and to include an examination of the possible negative impacts of increased globalisation on trade and employment in Ireland, particularly in the short term;
6. Is of the view that an independent analysis of the benefits and challenges that TTIP would pose to Irish businesses and jobs would also be helpful in terms of informing the debate on this initiative;
7. Recommends that the European Commission should recognise and prepare for short-term negative impacts that could arise before economic benefits are realised in terms of increased jobs dividend;
8. Is of the opinion that that greater dialogue between the European Commission and national parliaments is warranted to ensure local issues and interests are not neglected, in view of the broad ranging mandate that has been given to the European Commission as negotiator for the EU side;
9. Calls for closer cooperation between national parliaments and requests that national parliaments be involved in the "legislators" transatlantic dialogue;
10. Is of the view that the role of national parliaments in ratifying 'mixed agreements' must be respected and reflected when negotiating such trade agreements;
11. Is of the opinion that there is a lack of informed debate on TTIP, both nationally and at a European level, and encourages greater involvement in a debate is from civil society and other interest groups and calls on the Commission to stimulate and promote such debate;

12. Calls for greater transparency in the negotiations, which would assist with such debate;
13. Requests that negotiators and their possible conflicts of interests be identified;
14. Understands that the initiative provides for closer co-operation and alignment of regulation, but is concerned that regulatory convergence could lead to a lowering of standards and the removal of environmental and social protections, which should not occur;
15. Has concerns regarding the issue of regulatory convergence and believes there should be no dilution of safety or quality particularly in the agri-food sector, but also in other areas;
16. In relation to investment protection provisions, particularly in respect of investor-state dispute settlements, welcomes the public consultation on investment protection launched by the European Commission in March 2014 and looks forward to engaging with the EU Commission on this issue;
17. Believes that any final agreement should be kept under close scrutiny after implementation, in order to address any unanticipated impacts of the agreement.

The Joint Committee hopes its recommendations can be taken into account and looks forward to receiving a response to its observations from the European Commission and the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs 8 July 2014

Links to relevant Joint Committee transcripts:

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/EUJ2014052700001?opendocument>

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/EUJ2014060500001?opendocument>

Link to Joint Committee Work Programme for 2014:

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/media/committees/euaffairs/JCEUA-Work-Programme-2014.pdf>