



**Tithe an
Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas**

***An Comhchoiste um Poist, Fiontar agus Nuálaíocht
An Comhchoiste um Talmhaíocht, Bia agus Muir
An Comhchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh***

**An Cion Polaitiúil maidir leis an gComhpháirtíocht Thrasatlantach Trádála agus
Infheistíochta (CTTI)**

Nollaig 2015

***Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Joint Committee on European Union Affairs***

Political Contribution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

December 2015

31 JEI 020

31ENUA0031

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Contents

Part 1.....	2
Report of certain Oireachtas Joint Committees.....	2
Introduction	2
Decision of certain Oireachtas Joint Committees.....	4
Part 2.....	6
Political Contribution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership	6
Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.....	6
Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine.....	9
Joint Committee on European Union Affairs.....	12
Appendix	14

PART 1

Report of certain Oireachtas Joint Committees

Introduction

1. The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Oireachtas Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, hereinafter referred to as “the Committees”, considers the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) to be significantly important to Ireland and the EU across many sectors.
2. On that basis, the Committees have engaged both individually, and on a collective basis in joint session,¹ on this cross-sectoral issue.
3. The Committees welcomed the opportunity to formally meet together to examine this cross-sectoral issue and recommends that this innovative practice continue to be employed as an efficient and effective means of Parliamentary scrutiny.
4. Parliamentary scrutiny took place within the context of the broader engagement on TTIP, which is ongoing at Government and stakeholder level. Members of the Committees attended relevant briefings, including the launch of the Irish Government report - *TTIP impact in Ireland* by Copenhagen Economics.²
5. The following sets out a chronology of engagement undertaken by the Committees in discussing TTIP and is the basis for the political contribution in Part 2 of this Report:
 - i) 10 July 2014 - the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs submitted the first Oireachtas political contribution on TTIP to the EU institutions which was based on extensive consultations with stakeholders. This contribution identified many of the benefits and risks of TTIP as well as identifying concerns with the negotiation process, many of which remain valid and indeed are reiterated in this contribution.³
 - ii) 26 March 2015 - the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs received a response from the European Commission to its political contribution on TTIP.
 - iii) 27 March 2015 - the Copenhagen Economics report titled *TTIP impact in Ireland* was published. This independent economic impact study was commissioned by the Irish Government’s Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation to identify the potential impact of TTIP on the Irish economy and workforce.

¹ Meeting of the Oireachtas Joint Committees on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; Agriculture, Food and the Marine and European Union Affairs of 23 June 2015 by Order passed by Dáil Éireann on 9 June 2015 that, *notwithstanding anything in Standing Orders, two or more Joint Committees, in accordance with their orders of reference, may hold a joint meeting or meetings in this Dáil to consider the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), an EU-US trade agreement currently under negotiation.*

² Copenhagen Economics, *TTIP Impact in Ireland* (2015) Available at: <https://www.djei.ie/en/Publications/TTIP-Impact-in-Ireland-Study.html>

³ Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, *Political Contribution On The Transatlantic Trade And Investment Partnership* (2014) Available at: http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/media/committees/euaffairs/Final-TTIP-Report_09072014.pdf

- iv) 27 March 2015 - the European Commissioner for Trade, Cecilia Malmström met with the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs to update members of the ongoing negotiations on TTIP.⁴
- v) 26 May 2015 - Members of the Committees attended a seminar organised by Seán Kelly, MEP for Ireland South, on the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement (TTIP) hosted at the European Parliament's Dublin office. This seminar was addressed by Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton, TD, as well as stakeholders and negotiators involved in TTIP.
- vi) 1 June 2015 - at the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC) plenary meeting in Riga, Members of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs engaged in debate on *EU trade Policy for the Next Five Years: Focus on the EU-US TTIP*.
- vii) 11 June 2015⁵ - the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs continued its consideration of TTIP with the assistance of witnesses, Mr. Colin Brown, European Commission; Mr. Tom Healy, Director, Nevin Economic Research Institute; Mr. Mark Redmond, American Chamber of Commerce Ireland; Mr. Mark O'Mahoney, Director of Policy and Communications Chamber Ireland and Ms Patricia King, General Secretary, ICTU.
- viii) 17 June 2015 - Dominic Hannigan TD, Chair of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs and Marcella Corcoran Kennedy TD, Chair of the Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation attended an Inter-parliamentary meeting on the commercial policy of the European Union in the National Assembly in Paris, to discuss *Trade agreements: an opportunity?; For whom and under what conditions?*.
- ix) 23 June 2015⁶ - the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan addressed the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine on matters affecting Irish and European Agriculture including TTIP.
- x) 23 June 2015⁷ - the Joint meeting of the Committees⁷ was the culmination of the Oireachtas engagement on the negotiation of TTIP to date.

⁴ Meeting of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on European Union Affairs of 27 March 2015. Available at: <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/EUJ2015032700001?opendocument>

⁵ Meeting of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on European Union Affairs of 11 June 2015. Available at: <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/EUJ2015061100001?opendocument>

⁶ Meeting of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine of 23 June 2015. Available at: <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/AGJ2015062300001?opendocument>

⁷ Meeting of the Oireachtas Joint Committees on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Agriculture, Food and the Marine and European Union Affairs of 23 June 2015. Available at: <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/BUJ2015062300002?opendocument#A00100>

Decision of certain Oireachtas Joint Committees

The Committees agreed to submit a Political Contribution to the EU institutions on TTIP which reflects the consideration by the three Joint Committees of TTIP negotiation to date. It must be emphasised that further contributions are anticipated as further stakeholder engagement and consideration is undertaken by the three Joint Committees. It should also be noted that additional strands of the TTIP negotiation process fall to be considered by other Joint Committees of the Houses and this consideration is also likely to result in a formal communication by way of political contribution in due course. The Political Contribution, in Part 2 of this Report, was agreed on 21 October 2015 by the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, on 17 November 2015 by the Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and on 25 November 2015 by the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The Political Contribution is hereby formally communicated to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the respective Ministers of the Irish Government being the Minister Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and Minister of State with responsibility for European Affairs for consideration and response. The report will also be laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcella Corcoran Kennedy T.D." written over a horizontal line.

Marcella Corcoran Kennedy TD
Chair of the Joint Committee
on Jobs, Enterprise and
Innovation

17 November 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Doyle" written over a horizontal line.

Andrew Doyle TD
Chair of the Joint Committee
on Agriculture, Food and the
Marine

25 November 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dominic Hannigan" written over a horizontal line.

Dominic Hannigan TD
Chair of the Joint Committee
on European Union Affairs

21 October 2015

PART 2

Political Contribution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

The following are the opinions, observations and recommendations of the Committees:

Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

The Joint Committee, in relation to:

1. **Enterprise:** Is of the opinion that TTIP offers the potential to create additional employment, grow small and medium enterprises (SMEs), boost exports of goods and services and that vigilance is required to ensure that this potential is recognised. In particular,
 - i) welcomes the opportunity to reduce red tape and limit dual-testing of products while at the same time acknowledges concerns raised that the TTIP may in fact (even in the short-term) lead to increased regulation and red-tape in particular areas for certain businesses;
 - ii) welcomes mutual recognition of standards as a benefit to businesses large and small. Notes that the mutual recognition of standards applies only where standards are equivalent and should not become a means to facilitate the import of goods that do not meet current EU standards and ensures that mutual recognition of standards not be allowed to diminish the high standards demanded of EU producers and retailers for the Single Market;
 - iii) acknowledges that TTIP has the potential to reduce or eliminate tariffs, in particular, in sectors where tariffs have acted as a substantial barrier to trade and welcomes greater opportunities to trade presented by such a reduction or elimination of tariffs;
2. **Public Procurement:** Foresees opportunities for EU enterprises if the US public procurement markets are opened under TTIP; however, such opening of procurement markets must be reciprocal. Acknowledges that this may be difficult to achieve as this is a matter for individual federal states rather than the US federal government;
3. **Job displacement:** Notes that the Copenhagen Economics report predicts some job displacement will occur as a result of TTIP and notes multiple instances of research which found that that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the US, Canada and Mexico resulted in major job losses in the US;
4. **Public Services:** Calls on the European Commission to protect public services and explicitly reaffirm that public services are categorically excluded from the TTIP mandate, that member states' rights in relation to competency and decision-making on the provision of public services are and, will not be in the future, impinged by TTIP;

- 5. Investment Protection:** Welcomes Commissioner Malmström’s concept paper on ISDS.⁸ Encourages the move towards an Investment Court outlined in this document which offers a promising response to many of the reservations raised by the Joint Committee to Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) as perceived in past agreements. In particular,
- i) notes and welcomes recent developments in relation to the potential establishment of an Investment Court which should address many of the concerns relating to Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) shared by citizens and parliamentarians;
 - ii) urges the European Commission to ensure that the Investment Court proposal form an essential part of ongoing negotiations and that this proposal not be subject to amendments which dilute the improvements made over ISDS;
- 6. ISDS:** Pending the publication by the European Commission of the text of a proposal on the Investment Court, concerns remain regarding ISDS as currently envisaged. Is of the opinion that:
- i) the Irish judicial system offers sufficient protection to investors without the need for a parallel conflict resolution system. Expresses concern that such a system could potentially be used to impact adversely on the ability of national parliaments to legislate and hinder the ability of members states to regulate;
 - ii) the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) sets a minimum standard for ISDS in order to maintain and protect standards, prevent vexatious cases and to allow member states to take legislative action;
 - iii) notwithstanding assurances given to date and the presence of ISDS within CETA, ISDS remains a concern for many parliamentarians and citizens, and should be closely monitored in the course of negotiations;
- 7. Energy:** Acknowledges that TTIP has the potential for both Ireland and the EU to access cheaper energy sources including oil and gas which has the potential to reduce costs for businesses and households; while also acknowledging that such access may undermine Ireland and the EU’s ability to meet climate change targets;
- 8. Transport and Shipping:** The Committee encourages the EU to reduce restrictions and red-tape associated with the export of goods from the EU to the US including via container shipping. The Committee also notes that the US Congress and US state institutions including the US Department of Homeland Security are still considering legislation (related to the Safe Port Act of 2006) which could impose more restrictions on the export of goods from the EU to the US; US regulations could mean that 100% of U.S.-bound ocean containers be scanned at the foreign port of origin – this could constitute a non-tariff barrier by the US which could negatively impact upon both Irish and EU imports;

⁸ Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, *Investment in TTIP and beyond – the path for reform: Enhancing the right to regulate and moving from current ad hoc arbitration towards an Investment Court* (2015) Available at: http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/may/tradoc_153408.PDF

9. Concludes: That TTIP may have positive and negative impacts on Ireland and the EU. However, TTIP has the potential to create additional employment, grow SMEs and boost exports, particularly through a reduction in red-tape and tariffs. Reiterates that the assurances given on issues of concern for member states, notably, the retention of appropriate environmental, product and food safety standards and the exclusion of public services and ISDS must be affirmed in the final text of the agreement. Calls on the European Commission to prepare for any short-term negative impacts that may arise before economic benefits are realised, in particular, to mitigate the displacement of Irish and EU jobs.

The above contribution was agreed by the Committee following consideration of Deputy Peadar Tóibín's motion which is included in the appendix to the report. The question on the motion was put and decided in the negative accordingly.

Marcella Corcoran Kennedy T.D.

Marcella Corcoran Kennedy T.D.

Chair of the Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine

The Joint Committee believes that Ireland should oppose any deal on TTIP that does not adequately protect Irish and European Agriculture in relation to 1. Hormone and chemically washed/sanitized meat, 2. GMOs, 3. Food Standards and Food Safety, 4. Geographical Indicators, and 5. Beef Imports. The Committee further believes that the European Commission should take a robust stand in the forthcoming negotiations in protecting Irish and European farming and food industries and standards. Further details in relation to these issues are given below. Furthermore the Joint Committee calls on the European Commission to put in place an early warning system to inform the Committee if there is any weakening of the EU position on these issues so that the Joint Committee can make a timely response to such a development.

Specifically, the Joint Committee wishes to highlight the following in relation to:

- 1. Hormone and chemically washed/sanitized meat:** Welcomes the fact that the European Commission has consistently maintained its position that a TTIP agreement will not alter the current ban on the import of hormone treated meat in the EU. Recognises the past efforts made nationally and at EU level to restore consumer confidence in meat products in the Single Market, and thus recommends that no hormone treated meat from the US be allowed into the Single Market. Believes that to maintain consumer confidence in beef products in particular, that it is crucial that only non-hormone treated meat be available on the Single Market. Further believes that the sudden flooding into Europe of hormone treated meat from the US is highly likely to distort the Single Market. In spite of assurances to the contrary by prominent EU officials, the Joint Committee notes the continued public concern over chemically washed/sanitized meat (including by chlorine) being allowed access to the Single Market from the US as part of TTIP; and noting the continued lack of clarity from the European Commission on this issue, calls for the European Commission to make definitive declarations on this and associated issues as soon as possible;
- 2. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs):** Calls on the European Commission to maintain its cautionary stance on the use of Genetically Modified Organisms in food products in the EU in the context of the ongoing negotiations on TTIP. The Joint Committee's position on *COM(2015)177*⁹ regarding the possibility for member states to restrict or permit the use of GMO food or feed on their territory has already been articulated in a Political Contribution sent to the European Commission on 16 June 2015.¹⁰ The Joint Committee reiterates that it is absolutely opposed to any weakening of

⁹ Commission, 'Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the use of genetically modified food and feed on their territory' COM(2015)177 Available at: <http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/dossier/document/COM20150177.do>

¹⁰ Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine, *Political Contribution - COM (2015) 177 : Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 as regards the*

the existing barriers to the import of GMO-reliant produce from the USA under TTIP. The Joint Committee furthermore emphasises that the reputation of 'green' Irish produce will be damaged should American GMO produce enter the Single Market. The Joint Committee also calls on the European Commission to allow for national parliaments to thoroughly examine any proposed GMO-reliant products seeking to enter the Single Market. While noting that Ireland currently imports GMO feed for animals, it is robustly argued that GMO food and feed should be kept to a minimum in Ireland and the EU as there is significant resistance from member states on the proposed liberalisation of the governance of GMOs in the EU;

- 3. Food Standards and Food Safety:** Recommends that stringent standards be maintained in the production and quality of food produced in the US and the EU, with reciprocal adherence to 'the principle of equivalence' which ensures that while standards of the production and processing of food need not be identical, there can be a mutual recognition of the acceptability of standards between the US and the EU. Notes Ireland's and the EU's hard-won schemes including the "farm to fork strategy"¹¹ which appears to be in contradiction to the both agricultural practices and farming culture in the US which include factory farming and questionable animal welfare standards; the use of harmful pesticides and hormones and chemical washing/sanitizing of meat products. In this respect, the Joint Committee notes the long-standing confidence invested by the Irish consumer in agri-food products may be severely undermined with the import of agri-food products which simply do not adhere to Irish and EU standards as per TTIP;
- 4. Geographical Indicators:** Is concerned that the use of terms which are geographical indicators of premium quality Irish and European products are also used as generic terms to describe products of potentially inferior quality in the US. For example, Irish cream liqueur attracts a premium price in the Single Market because of its quality arising from its geographical indicator being recognised. If a similar generic product produced in the US and marketed as Irish cream liqueur were to enter the Single Market it could distort the market and confuse consumers;
- 5. Dairy:** Recognises the significant potential for Ireland to increase its levels of dairy exports to the US. However, the Joint Committee is aware of the regulatory barriers and tariffs which may hinder the expansion of Irish dairy produce into the US market. The Joint Committee recommends that the high standards utilised in Irish dairy production be recognised by the relevant authorities. This would boost employment and mitigate the risk of job displacement as articulated in paragraph 8 below. Additionally, the Joint Committee calls on the European Commission to recognise that significant quantities of Irish dairy produce are produced from grass-fed animals, resulting in high quality end products which could attract a premium in the US market. The Joint Committee notes that the US has introduced temporary extra import duties on butter and cream from the

possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the use of genetically modified food and feed on their territory.

(2015) Available at: <http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/scrutiny/COD20150093/iesea.do>

¹¹ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_food-safety/information_sources/docs/from_farm_to_fork_2004_en.pdf

EU, including Ireland - from October until the end of 2016 – this development is noteworthy given the ongoing TTIP negotiations and Ireland’s reliance on such exports.

6. **Beef Exports:** Welcomes the opportunity for Irish and other EU producers to sell beef into the US market and would welcome any reductions in tariffs in this regard;
7. **Beef Imports:** Recommends that an appropriate quota of US beef be set for entry to the Single Market in order to avoid the possibility of a sudden distortion in the Single Market for beef and damage to indigenous Irish and EU producers;
8. **Rural Job Displacement:** Is cognisant of the ongoing decline in rural populations in Ireland and other member states. Calls on the European Commission to recognise the potentially adverse impact which a trade agreement such as TTIP could have on employment in rural areas. Recommends that appropriate arrangements be made where rural employment is threatened. For example, workers in the Irish beef sector are identified as one of the ‘at-risk’ sectors and that workers in this sector may, by reason of skills or geography, find it difficult to find work in export oriented areas likely to benefit from TTIP. Calls for the active EU monitoring of rural employment to identify any such issues at an early stage and to devise contingency plans to sustain employment in rural areas if TTIP is agreed.
9. **Concludes:** That TTIP poses both opportunities and threats for Irish agriculture and rural life. The potential opening up of the US market for Irish and other European agricultural produce is welcomed. However, it is vital that the stringent food standards employed in the Single Market are adhered to. Details on issues such as quotas, food standards, GMOs, and geographical indicators will be closely monitored by the Joint Committee.

The above political contribution was agreed with Deputies Martin Ferris and Thomas Pringle dissenting to the process of submitting the Political Contribution to the EU Institutions and to the respective Ministers of the Irish Government.



Andrew Doyle T.D.

Chair of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Building on the Joint Committee's original political contribution submitted in July 2014, the Joint Committee, in relation to:

- 1. Transparency of Negotiation Process:** Welcomes efforts by the European Commission and in particular by Commissioner Malmström to address concerns expressed by national parliaments on the perceived lack of transparency surrounding TTIP. In particular,
 - i) notes the European Commission's 'transparency initiative' on TTIP with the publication of documents online including legislative proposals, background proposals, common positions and notes and references to various reports and also Commissioner Malmström's attendance at meetings with national parliamentarians at various fora;
 - ii) urges the European Commission to continue and improve its efforts to increase transparency in this regard. As the EU is tasked with negotiating trade agreements on behalf of member states, greater transparency in all such negotiations is an essential element of trade negotiations to ensure democratic accountability at all levels;
 - iii) continues to be of the view that a transparent negotiation process will also encourage greater engagement in the debate both at national and European level and will assist citizens in forming an opinion on TTIP;
 - iv) urges the European Commission to publish a draft text of TTIP as soon as possible;
- 2. Mixed Agreement:** Is of the opinion that the role of national parliaments in ratifying mixed agreements must be reflected and respected in trade agreements. TTIP concerns policy areas within the competence of member states, including certain policy areas as services, transport and investment protection. Therefore, urges the European Commission to conclude TTIP as a mixed agreement on that basis;
- 3. Role of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC):** Welcomes Commissioner Malmström's engagement with national parliament representatives at COSAC plenary in Riga. Calls on the European Commission to continue to develop this type of engagement with COSAC on trade and other important dossiers and suggests that the European Commission examine the possibility of further such engagement with COSAC;
- 4. Dialogue with national parliaments:** Reiterates the importance of the role of national parliaments during negotiations and encourages greater dialogue between the European Commission and national parliaments bilaterally to ensure that national interests are fairly and proportionally represented and not neglected. Requests the European Commission to consider its relationship with national parliaments and evaluate whether dialogue with national parliaments can be strengthened;

5. **Divided opinion among member states:** Believes that there is not widespread support for TTIP among member states. Ireland along with some EU member states share and have expressed similar concerns around ISDS, GMOs and safety standards. It is essential that the final text of the TTIP Agreement be, not only comprehensive, but also uncompromising in safeguarding the legitimate interests shared by all member states;
6. **The right of Parliaments to legislate:** It was indicated at the meeting that there was grave concern regarding the threat of a reduction in the ability or willingness of member states to legislate arising from TTIP. Members were adamant that the final text of TTIP be carefully worded to protect against the chilling effect¹² on legislatures and that ISDS precludes companies from undue interference in the legislative process;
7. **EU Values:** Reminds all parties to be cognisant of the issues beyond trade such as sustainable development and growth, creating high international standards, promoting the values of the EU such as democracy, the rule of law, labour and human rights and increasing engagement thereby with a broader spectrum of civil society.
8. **Concludes:** That the EU's free trade agreement agenda is of the utmost importance to Ireland and all EU member states. As a small open economy, Ireland is highly dependent on export markets and trade agreements. The European economy must also increase exports to continue the tentative economic recovery which is underway. TTIP will offer new opportunities for Ireland and other member states by opening markets and breaking down barriers. The Joint Committee will continue to monitor the negotiations closely and urges the European Commission to remain engaged in their dialogue with national parliaments.

The contribution was agreed by the Committee on 21 October. At a further meeting of the Committee on 25 November, the motion at the appendix which was also submitted in the name of Senator Kathryn Reilly was considered. The question on the motion was put and decided in the negative.



Dominic Hannigan T.D.

Chair of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

¹² In a legal context, a chilling effect is the inhibition or discouragement of the legitimate exercise of natural and legal rights by the threat of legal sanction. A chilling effect may be caused by legal actions such as the passing of a law, the decision of a court, or the threat of a lawsuit; any legal action that would cause people to hesitate to exercise a legitimate right (freedom of speech or otherwise) for fear of legal repercussions.

APPENDIX

Motion re TTIP

That the Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation agree to

- withdraw the Political Contribution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) as the process from which it has been drafted is significantly incomplete, is based solely on evidence given by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation to three committees, which exposes the Committee to censure from stakeholders and citizens who are already deeply concerned regarding the secretive nature of the TTIP negotiations and believe that concerns raised are not being dealt with;
- commence with the process agreed to in May 2015 which included the holding of hearings to examine in full the identified policy areas of the trade agreement for consideration across the six Oireachtas Joint committees which are Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, European Union Affairs, Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Finance and Public Expenditure, Justice and Defence and Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- prepare a comprehensive Political Contribution on completion of the agreed process by all six Committees that adequately reflects the comprehensive examination members have undertaken in their consideration of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership trade agreement, and agreement that is unprecedented in its scale and depth.

Peadar Tóibín TD
An Mhí Thiar

Note: An identical motion was submitted to the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs by Senator Kathryn Reilly, and a similar motion was submitted to the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food, and the Marine by Deputy Martin Ferris.