



European  
Commission

## **Towards an EU-US trade deal** Making trade work for you



The Transatlantic Trade and  
Investment Partnership (TTIP):

### **We're listening and engaging**

The European Commission is negotiating a **new trade agreement** with the US - the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, or **TTIP**.

We know we'll only get the best deal - one that benefits as many Europeans as possible - if we **involve everyone with a stake** in the outcome, at every stage.

That's why we're **consulting the public**. And why we often meet:

- **MEPs and governments**
- **our panel of outside experts**
- **firms and industry bodies**
- **consumer groups**
- **unions and NGOs.**

We're also sharing all the **documents** we can.



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### 1. Consulting and updating the public

We're **using the web** to get a clearer idea of the wider **public's wishes and concerns**.

Before the talks started we held **three online consultations** to better understand the measures people want us to take to boost EU-US trade and investment.

Visit the EU's **webpages** covering the EU-US trade talks: <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/ttip/>

You'll find latest **news**, key **documents**, and **FAQs**.

A **fourth** consultation asks for the public's views on our draft **ideas on protecting investors**. These include improvements to a system known as investor-state dispute settlement, or ISDS, which dates back over 30 years.

We also post regular updates on our **dedicated webpages** and on **Twitter**. And we regularly **brief the press**.



### 2. Conferring with governments and MEPs

In June 2013 the **governments** of the EU's 28 countries **asked us to negotiate** a draft deal with the US.

Their **guidelines** specified what we could and couldn't discuss, and our red lines.

We also have a **legal duty to consult** governments throughout the process.

Since the talks started in July 2013, we've taken part in **over 40 different meetings** - from detailed, technical discussions between trade policy officials, to meetings with Ministers.

We also have a **duty to listen** to the **European Parliament**.



We do this mainly through the Parliament's **Committee for International Trade** (or 'INTA').

The Committee has a **US Monitoring Group**, with members from the Parliament's main political groups.

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The European Parliament President, Martin Schulz, has also set up a **group of MEPs** to follow the talks.

Since talks started, the EU Trade Commissioner, Karel De Gucht, and senior Commission officials have taken part in **15 formal meetings** in the Parliament.

We've also shared over **65 key documents** and answered **80 written MEP questions**.



The image shows a poster for a public conference on the EU-US Trade Agreement, titled 'EU-US TRADE AGREEMENT MYTHS & TRUTHS'. The poster includes details about the conference on 18 March 2014 at the European Parliament in Brussels, featuring speakers like Antonio Spingali and Ignacia Gallego. Next to it is a screenshot of the Twitter profile for the EU TTIP Team (@EU\_TTIP\_team), showing 583 tweets, 106 followers, and 6,000 following.

EU **Chief Negotiator** Ignacio Garcia Berceo and his team regularly speak at **public meetings** on the TTIP. They're also active on **Twitter** - **@EU\_TTIP\_team**.



### 3. Getting advice from outside experts

We recently set up a **group of 14 outside experts**.

They come from a variety of backgrounds and have extensive experience in:

- **industry** and commerce
- **consumer** affairs
- **workers'** rights
- **environmental** protection.

They'll give us **high quality advice** on the different topics on which we're negotiating.

**Members'** details and **meeting reports** are available online.



The image displays a grid of 14 individual portraits of the members of the TTIP Advisory Group. The text 'TTIP Advisory Group' is centered in the grid.

We've set up a panel of **14 outside experts** in business, consumer affairs, labour rights, and environmental protection, to **advise our negotiators**.



### 4. Hearing from other interest groups

We want to hear from everyone with a stake in this agreement.

We regularly meet people from **firms large and small**, and from **industry bodies**. This is, after all, a deal about the mechanics of doing business. So we need their input.

But we also listen to people from:

- **consumer associations**
- **trades unions**
- **environmental groups** and **other NGOs**.

For example, during and between each week-long negotiating round, we invite them to **formal meetings** with our **Chief Negotiator** and his team.

Here they get to:

- make **presentations** to us
- exchange **views**
- discuss **substance** and **progress**.

Since 2012, we've held **seven meetings** in Brussels - each time with hundreds of people.

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We're also meeting to **discuss a study** underway to gauge the deal's likely impact on **labour standards** and the **environment**.



Over **650 people** came to our TTIP **interest group meeting** in March 2014. Of those, **90** gave **presentations** and answered our team's questions.

And our **doors are always open** to anyone who wishes to tell us their hopes or concerns.



### 5. Sharing documents

We aim to **share as many documents as possible** – not just with governments and MEPs, but also with our panel and the public.

After we received the green light from EU governments, we took the unprecedented step of making our **initial position papers** public. We used these to set out the EU's goals - and tabled them in the talks themselves.

In fact we've published **more than 50 documents online**, including:

- factsheets and FAQs
- press releases and memos
- studies and meeting reports.

So far over **120,000 copies** have been downloaded.

In any negotiation, partners need to build **trust**. For that they need a degree of **confidentiality**.

So there are **some texts** we can only show to governments and MEPs – like our **offers to the US** to:

- cut **tariffs** on goods they export to us
- open our **services** markets to their firms.

But at the end of the process, the whole deal will be **open to scrutiny** in any case.

And the final decision comes with a **double democratic guarantee**. Only a majority of both EU governments and MEPs can approve an agreement.

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