



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSISTANTS SOCIAUX
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES SOCIALES

IFSW Europe resolves to make representations to the EU and US to exclude social work services from the scope of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) currently being negotiated.

On 5th September 2015 representatives of member organisations of the European Region of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) present at the Federation's annual Delegates Meeting in Edinburgh unanimously approved a motion proposed by the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) requiring the Federation to make representations to the EU Commission and US Trade Representative urging them:

- 1) To ensure that the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism (or any alternative negotiated following the European Parliament vote 08.07.15) contained in the proposed EU/US Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) does not apply to providers in social work and social care services and so will not deter the development of new services, or provoke the withdrawal of existing ones and remove government rights to regulate services.
- 2) To insert public interest clauses excluding all social care and health services and all 'services of general interest' from the scope of TTIP and ISDS or any alternative to ISDS.
- 3) To support the European Parliament International Trade INTA committee vote (28.05.15) to exclude public services (services of general interest) and monitor the exclusion of social care, social work and health services in the TTIP negotiations, particularly in the case of services where an element of private provision exists.

Justification

- This resolution relates to current negotiations to reach a free trade agreement between the United States of America and the European Union entitled Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP or TAFTA in the US) and the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS).
- The motion stressed the need for the work of the IFSW 'Group on international trade agreements' to be further developed and shared with member organisations and other stakeholders. It also acknowledged the important representations made by the European Social Platform to the EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem about the implications of the proposed agreements for those receiving and those providing social work services.
- Particularly because social work and social care services in Europe often combine private and public providers and because there is a disjoint in



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definitions of public services (TTIP/ISDS) and services of general interest (EU) great vigilance is needed in lobbying against TTIP and ISDS

- Health and social services are increasingly being provided by global multinational companies some of whom pursue profit at the expense of quality services and decent working conditions for their staff, both TTIP and ISDS will reinforce this. Such developments are likely to promote institutional models of care rather than those that promote the development of person centred self directed support.
- The motion reaffirmed that social justice and universal access to services and human rights are central to social work (IFSW Definition of Social Work 2014) and that it is essential that governments are not prevented by increased corporate power from legislating for the public benefit. As part of the Global Agenda for Social Work's focus on the dignity and worth of peoples, it is vital to uphold national governments regulation and legislation of services of general interest.
- IFSW Europe pledged to continue this lobby at a European Level, to encourage its member organisations to lobby their MEPs and national politicians to require their heads of state to vote to secure the exclusion of all social care, social work and health services from TTIP and ISDS and ensure universal access to services.
- We believe that it is imperative to ensure that all health and social care and social work services are exempted from the proposed TTIP and ISDS agreements.

The motion was circulated to all of IFSW Europe's member organisations in advance and formally proposed to the Delegates Meeting by Linda de Chenu on behalf of the BASW international Committee.

30th September 2015

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