

## TTIP: the next round to the campaigners

Green MEP Molly Scott Cato was pleased to welcome nearly 150 British anti-TTIP campaigners to Brussels last week for demonstrations and meetings on the controversial trade deal, which is currently in its 8th round of negotiations. The campaigners hailed from all over the UK including Molly's constituency of the South West, and raised concerns on a wide range of areas which stand to be affected by TTIP (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership).

The week was one full of TTIP-related events, as Molly first answered questions from Frack Free Somerset on the possible threat of the trade deal opening the floodgates to fracking, filmed by Al Jazeera (video available [here](#)). She then had the pleasure of addressing the campaigners on a panel discussion hosted by Global Justice Now (GJN) with representatives from GJN, the Corporate Europe Observatory and the Stop TTIP ECI campaign. Molly spoke to resounding applause on the secrecy surrounding the negotiations, her experiences looking at 'secret' TTIP documents in the Parliamentary reading room. (A very popular [article](#) by Molly was published in the Guardian about this experience and the undemocratic secrecy surrounding TTIP and its ramifications for democracy). She emphasised just how important it was that members of the public had come to Brussels to help fight the trade deal.

The following morning, Molly joined the campaigners in a group of over 300 who descended on the European Commission building demanding an end to the 'Trojan horse' of TTIP. The event brought together civil society organisations and members of the public from across the EU, and sent a strong message to the Commission and to Jean Claude Juncker, who are overseeing the TTIP negotiations. The Green position on the trade deal was illustrated in a video filmed at the event, available [here](#). Shortly after the demonstration, Molly chaired a discussion with several of the anti-TTIP campaigners over the dangers of the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) instruments, which may feature heavily in the proposed EU-US trade deal. The inclusion of these instruments allows corporations to sue governments for passing laws which may impinge on their profits, even if these laws protect public health or other key aspects of society. Australia, Canada, Uruguay, Poland, Singapore and other nations have already been sued under ISDS for laws



Molly joins campaigners and a giant 'Trojan horse' for the anti-TTIP demo

including tackling childhood smoking and restricting polluting tar sands extraction. The video of this discussion is available [here](#).

The 150 British campaigners finally had the chance to hear from all three UK Green MEPs and put forward their suggestions and questions at a meeting in the European Parliament hosted by the Greens/EFA group. Between them they covered all the major aspects and impacts of TTIP, with Molly speaking on the financial aspects of the trade deal and touching on the specific impacts TTIP would have in the South West. The campaigners then attempted to meet with their MEPs from other parties to ask their views on the trade deal, before returning to the UK the following day.



The three UK Green MEPs, Molly (SW), Keith (SE) and Jean (London), talk to 150 TTIP campaigners in the European Parliament

Molly was left enthused by the commitment and passion of the group, and remarked that, "public pressure has shut down trade deals which threatened democracy in the past", evoking the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) which was abandoned in 1998 after a public outcry at its potential to stifle human rights, weaken food safety standards and unleash widespread environmental damage. She continued, "it is crucial that the public put their elected representatives under the same pressure that we saw when MAI was on the table, and it's incredibly encouraging to see so many diverse UK campaigners in Brussels who are determined to do just that. Nearly 1.5million European citizens have signed a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) against TTIP, and I'm very pleased to say that this figure includes over 200,000 British signatures, nearly four times our quota".

Molly has campaigned and spoken against TTIP extensively - for more details on her work on tackling the trade deal, please see <http://mollymep.org.uk/category/other-issues/trade/>. For more information on TTIP and its potential effects for European and US citizens, see <http://ttip2014.eu/>. To add your signature to the ECI, go to <https://stop-ttip.org/>.