

**Article notes: January 23, 2014**  
**Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**TPP STATE OF PLAY AFTER SALT LAKE CITY 19-24 NOVEMBER 2013 ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS; (December 2014)**

This paper is a lengthy compilation of excerpts from internal commentaries authored by TPP participants. Notable highlights include the following:

- The US is exerting a great deal of pressure to close as many issues as possible but without great success.
- Not much progress is being made with regards to many chapters including intellectual property, pharmaceuticals, state-owned enterprises, rules of origin, textiles, and investment.
- The US is pushing hard for acceptance of ISDS for investment agreements and application to the TPP as a whole without much support from other nations;
- With the exception of the application of ISDS, the chapter on sanitary and phytosanitary standards is almost agreed to.

This paper is also accompanied by a chart which details each TPP participant's position on the various chapters and their specific components.

**TTIP STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATION SCHEDULE, Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup>, Washington D.C.**

This excerpt from the schedule shows the presentation from CTPC Co-Chair Representative Sharon Anglin Treat titled, "*View from Maine: Preserving Domestic Regulatory Space to Protect the Public Interest.*"

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation made by Representative Treat is also provided. This presentation includes the following points:

- The states and federal government have a shared role in determining domestic policy in such areas as:
  - Environment
  - Public health
  - Consumer protection
  - Worker safety and fair treatment
- The CTPC has been very active in taking positions on various FTAs
- The Maine State Legislature has been active in writing laws pertaining to chemical and food safety, public safety and the environment.
- Will these various laws be overturned by the TTIP?

***This Deal Could Make You Sick: A Backdoor for Food Contamination (Public Citizen; 12/13/13)***

This article discusses the efforts to deregulate food safety standards within the TTIP. Particular food safety issues that are discussed include:

- Current US restrictions on the importation of uncooked meat;
- Current US practice of treating poultry with chlorine;
- weaker US Grade A dairy safety standards;
- the current EU ban on the use of ractopamine to promote growth in pork products;
- the currently stringent EU standards of allowable pesticide residues on fruit.

In addition, the article highlights the strong US support for the use of the ISDS process to resolve food safety trade disputes under TTIP and the current USTR effort to have Fast Track authority approved by the US Congress.

***EU and US both threatened by secret trade talks; (EUOBSERVER.COM; 12/13/13)***

This opinion piece written jointly by the *Friends of the Earth US* and *Friends of the Earth Europe* takes a strong stand against the proposed TTIP. Their argument against the TTIP includes the following points:

- the TTIP has little to do with free trade and much more to do with extending corporate power;
- TTIP is likely to roll back democratically agreed upon regulatory standards for food safety, the environment and other areas of public safety; and
- Inclusion of ISDS within the TTIP is likely to underscore the nature of the agreement as a partnership for profits.

***Statement on Washington D.C., round of transatlantic trade negotiations; (Friends of the Earth; 12/20/13)***

This statement from FOE denounces the secrecy by which the TTIP negotiations are being conducted and also speaks strongly in opposition to the proposed investment chapter of the TTIP which is likely to have a negative effect on the efforts to deal with climate change and global warming.

***Take trade agreement off fast track; (Boston Globe; 12/21/13)***

This opinion piece written by Boston Globe columnist Renee Loth voices her skepticism about the TPP and her opposition to President Obama's proposal for Fast Track authority.

**Through trade treaty, U.S. hopes rules that favor its companies will become the norm;**  
***(Washington Post; 12/24/13)***

This article discusses the trade advantages that US companies may enjoy if the TPP is finalized in the ways that the USTR is negotiating for. Key issues include:

- Regulation of the internet and e-commerce;
- Rules for the patents and sale of biopharmaceuticals;
- Oversight of logistics, consulting, energy management and other service industries.

The article concludes by quoting CTPC Chair Sharon Anglin Treat who stated her concern that the TPP and TTIP may run counter to the constitutional divide between the federal and state governments.

**Outcome of trade talks splits state;** ***(Portland Press Herald; 12/29/13)***

This article discusses the diverging perspectives within the State of Maine regarding the possible approval of the TPP. Most of the differences center on the issue of eliminating tariffs and other “artificial” trade barriers. The elimination of trade tariffs and other trade barriers is likely to threaten the jobs associated with the last remaining domestic shoe manufacturing company New Balance which has manufacturing plants in Skowhegan and Norridgewock. On the other hand, the removal of trade barriers has the potential for opening up significant new Asian markets for the seafood industry in Maine as well as the wild blueberry industry.

**China hints at joining the TPP talks;** ***(New Straits Times; 1/2/14)***

This article discusses China’s emerging interest in pursuing economic diplomacy and perhaps joining the TPP negotiations. The article also points out that China’s acceptance into the TPP may significantly increase the chances of Congressional approval of Fast Track authority in that China’s inclusion in the TPP would help create a level international playing field for US companies.

**Activists fear trade deal’s impacts on the Pacific rim** ***(SciDevNet; 1/3/14)***

This article reports that organizations and individuals from both sides of the Pacific have serious reservations about the TPP. These reservations include:

- A concern that the TPP will significantly limit internet freedoms and access to pharmaceuticals; and
- A concern that any effort to extend copyright protections will also hinder the flow of knowledge.

**Transcript: Chief Negotiators, Dan Mullaney and Ignacio Garcia Bercero Hold a Press Conference Following the Third Round of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Talks; (USTR; 12/20/13)**

This lengthy transcript provides details from the USTR about the TTIP negotiations and can be viewed in its entirety at the following location:

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2013/December/TTIP-Third-Round-Press-Conference-transcript>

A 2 page excerpt of the press conference has been included in this collection of articles. This excerpt involves a question with several parts posed by Representative Sharon Treat which first asks a continued lack of transparency with the TTIP and then asks about the timetable for negotiating the TTIP. The response on the transparency part of the question focused on the 3 hour stakeholder session with the opportunity for the follow-up press conference. The answer to the timetable part of the question was rather vague and spoke to the lack of a specific timeframe or schedule.

**The secret trade deal that threatens Maine's frail economy; (Portland Phoenix; 1/3/14)**

This article focuses on the TPP and its several possible effects on the State of Maine and its economy. The article includes the following points:

- There is a concern that the elimination of textile tariffs with Vietnam will result in the loss of several hundred shoe manufacturing jobs at the New Balance manufacturing plants in Skowhegan and Norridgewock;
- Another primary concern is the perception that the TPP bypasses normal democratic processes and is designed to benefit powerful international companies by implementing:
  - ◊ Stronger patent and copyright rules that favor pharmaceutical and tech companies over artists, consumers and patients; and
  - ◊ New rights for corporations through the use of ISDS to challenge those federal, state and local laws which are thought to restrict trade.
- The article also highlights several comments from CTPC Chair Representative Sharon Anglin Treat which include:
  - ◆ Her intent to review how the TPP might affect state level policies pertaining to the environment and public health; and
  - ◆ Her participation as both a cleared advisor to the USTR and a member of the CTPC.
- The article also covers a number of other issues pertaining to the TPP that are of concern :
  - ◆ The extreme secrecy and lack of transparency by which the TPP has been negotiated;
  - ◆ The notion of corporate sovereignty as embodied by the use of ISDS to resolve trade disputes and how corporate sovereignty trumps governmental or public policy sovereignty; and
  - ◆ The USTR push for Fast Track approval by Congress.

**Stop Fast Track: Radio AM950 broadcasts on trade agreements and the environment;  
(Friends of the Earth; 1/6/14)**

This blog post discusses a recent radio show in which FOE staff person Bill Waren was a guest and spoke of the need for the public to oppose Fast Track. Mr. Waren also detailed FOE's opposition to both the TPP and the TTIP by stating:

- The undemocratic effort by both treaties to undo domestic regulatory efforts pertaining the environment and public safety; and
- The use of ISDS in both treaties to trump sovereign judicial and policy decisions.

**Baucus and Camp introduce legislation to rush trade deals past Congress; (Friends of the Earth; 1/9/14)**

This blog post reports on Fast Track legislation introduced by Senator Max Baucus and Representative Dave Camp and details FOE's opposition to Fast Track by making the following points:

- Fast Track usurps the Constitution by handing power to the Executive Branch that reserved for Congress. These powers include;
  - ◆ The power to bypass congressional committee review and directly submit legislation for floor votes on the Senate and the House;
  - ◆ The power to override House and Senate control over their own schedules for floor votes; and
  - ◆ The power to ban any amendments to trade treaties.

**Looming Trade Deal Raises Concerns About Impacts on Jobs and Farms in Maine; (Free Press; 1/9/14)**

This article reports on the public hearing held by the CTPC in Belfast, Maine on 12/12/13 and makes the following points:

- Testimony regarding the TPP was presented to the CTPC by farmers, fishermen, public policy experts and various activists;
- Support for the TPP has been voiced by the Business Round Table by arguing that the TPP has the "potential to create new opportunities for Maine";
- The Center for Economic Policy Research opposes the TPP by stating that stronger rules for copyright enforcement will result in lower wage domestic jobs due to increased competition from lower paid foreign workers;
- Testimony from John Piotti, Executive Director of the Maine Farmland Trust, stated that the TPP is likely to devastate dairy industry in Maine by invalidating the delicate price structure that is currently in place for dairy products;
- Other testimony was presented alleging that the use of ISDS in the TPP will effectively destroy federal and state sovereignty ; and
- The mounting opposition in Congress to the Fast Track proposal made by the USTR.

**E-mail Memo from Lori Wallach regarding the President's Fast Track Proposal; ( Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch; 1/14/14)**

This e-mail post details the opposition of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch to the President's Fast Track proposal;

- It empowers the president to unilaterally select trade negotiating partners and to start negotiations;
- It empowers the president to unilaterally control the contents of a trade agreement;
- It authorizes the president to enter into a trade agreement with only expedited and limited approval from Congress;
- It authorizes the president to submit expansive legislation to implement any such trade agreement; and
- It stipulates that the proposal would be subject to Congressional approval within 90 days without amendment.

**Administration is Seen as Retreating on Environment in Talks on Pacific Trade (New York Times; 1/15/14)**

This article discusses the apparent backtracking of the Obama administration and the USTR on previous pledges to protect the environment in the TPP negotiations. The article cites the contents of the recent WikiLeaks release of TPP secret papers which reveals that previous US positions advocating for strong environmental protection provisions are being resisted by other TPP participants and that the US appears to be acceding to that opposition.

**Secret draft of TPP talks on environment show little enforcement measures; (Sydney Morning Herald; 1/16/14)**

This Australian news article reports that negotiated TPP chapters on the environment include very little enforcement powers or responsibilities for member nations.

**Trade leak feeds Democratic insurgency; (Politico; 1/16/14)**

This news article reports that recent leaks of secret TPP chapters on the environment that show very little enforcement powers for high environmental protection standards have caused many Congressional Democrats to voice significant concern and possible opposition to approval of the TPP.

**TTIP puts the EU's environmental and social policies on the line; (Opinion post from European NGOs; 1/13/14)**

Ten European NGOs representing health, transparency and environment concerns have posted their opinion that the TTIP will have the effect of requiring the EU to lower the current standards and rules for environmental and social policies to create a level playing field with less rigorous US standards and rules. This opinion piece also voices significant concern with the use of ISDS

within the TTIP to challenge EU standards in these policy areas which are perceived as impeding free trade.

**Trade and the Environment** (*New York Times*; 1/18/14)

This editorial endorses the previous commitment by the USTR to strive for strong and enforceable environmental provisions in the TPP and urges the Obama administration not to accede to opposition to such provisions by other TPP nations.

**Pacific, EU trade deals need up-or-down votes**; (*Boston Globe*; 1/19/14)

This editorial voices strong support for President Obama's Fast Track authority proposals regarding approval of the TPP and the TTIP. The editorial maintains that trade agreements are necessarily complex and cannot be realistically negotiated and then be subject to amendment by Congress. The editorial also expresses disagreement with the claim that Fast Track represents an abdication of the responsibility of Congress to review and approve trade agreements by stating that Congress will have the ultimate authority to approve these trade agreements based on their final merits.

**Article notes: February 24, 2014  
Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**Don't fast track a polluters' bill of rights; (FOE blog, 1/24/14)**

This opinion piece urges readers to oppose the current Fast Track legislation being considered by Congress for the following reasons:

- It would undercut the constitutional authority of Congress to review and approve international trade agreements; and
- It would rush approval of the “environmentally hazardous” TPP and TTIP.

**Commentary: Trade agreements need meaningful congressional review, congresswoman says; (Chellie Pingree, Portland Press Herald, 1/27/14)**

This opinion piece written by Maine Congresswoman Chellie Pingree states her opposition to Fast Track legislation proposed by the USTR for the following reasons:

- The TPP and TTIP are complicated trade agreements and deserve a thorough review by Congress as required by the Constitution;
- The precedent represented by NAFTA provides little evidence of domestic job creation, strengthening of trade and lower consumer prices; and
- The TPP and TTIP are likely to include many non-tariff provisions and are actually largely focused on the removal of “non-tariff barriers” .

**SOTU: President's Base Opposes Fast Track for TPP (Citizen Trade; 1/27/14)**

This article discusses the opposition to Fast Track authority by more than 550 labor, environmental , family farm and other organizations that are traditionally supportive of President Obama's policy priorities. This opposition was voiced in a recent letter to the President signed by these organizations which voiced the following concerns about Fast Track authority:

- It undermines Congressional authority to review and approve international trade agreements;
- It would allow the President to sign trade agreements prior to Congressional approval;
- It would allow the Executive Branch to alter federal laws to comply with trade agreements; and
- It would limit Congressional debate and prohibit amendments.

**Attorney General Mills calls for trade deal to protect Maine's anti-tobacco efforts; (Maine AG Press Release, 1/28/14)**

**Text of letter to USTR Michael Froman, signed by more than 40 state AGs; (1/27/14)**

The press release from Maine Attorney General Janet Mills details her opposition to the current TPP provision regarding the treatment of tobacco “like any other product for sale” and maintains that the inclusion of such a provision would undermine Maine’s effort to regulate tobacco to protect the public health and welfare. Along with more than 40 Attorneys General from other states, AG Mills signed a letter to that effect which was sent to USTR Michael Froman.

**Timing of TPA Depends on Obama, Says Former Chief of Staff to USTR, Cato Scholar Says Jettison Investor-State Dispute Settlement ; (BNA; 1/29/14)**

This article details the assertion of Timothy J. Keeler, former USTR Chief of Staff, that the timing of when Fast Track authority will be considered by Congress for approval will depend on the President’s willingness to expend his political capital. The article also reports on the assertion from Dan Ikenson, from the Cato Institute, that passage of the TPP and the TTIP would be enhanced if both agreements “jettisoned” inclusion of ISDS provisions.

**Statement by United States Trade Representative Michael Froman on the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014 ; (USTR Newsletter; 1/31/14)**

In this statement, USTR Froman advocates strongly for bipartisan approval of the President’s Fast Track authority proposal and maintains that the proposal will:

- Open new trade markets;
- Support U.S. jobs;
- Increase exports of Made in America products; and
- Ensure a level playing field for the US to compete in international trade.

**Executive Summary: Investor-State dispute settlement under TTIP – a risk for environmental regulation? ; (Heinrich Boll Foundation; 2/5/14)**

As stated in this summary, ISDS provisions likely to be included in the TTIP have the potential to:

- Restrict the ability of sovereign governments to develop environmental rules and regulations;
- Require fair and equal treatment for all investors;
- Prohibit indirect expropriation; and
- Inclusion of the so called “umbrella clause”

(A complete copy of this 25 page report on ISDS and the TTIP can be viewed online at [http://boell.org/downloads/HBS-TTIP\\_2.pdf](http://boell.org/downloads/HBS-TTIP_2.pdf))

**USTR calls All-Day Briefing for Cleared Advisers on TPP for Next Week; (Inside U.S. Trade; 2/6/14)**

This article reports that in response to criticism about the alleged secrecy surrounding the TPP negotiations, the USTR planned an all day briefing on February 11<sup>th</sup> for cleared advisers.

**USTR cancels TPP [Vermont] briefing over presence of media; (Politico; 2/10/14)**

This article reports that the USTR cancelled a briefing to Vermont state legislators when it was learned that media would be covering the event.

**USTR TPP Briefing To Cleared Advisers Reveals Major Outstanding Issues (Inside U.S. Trade; 2/12/14)**

This article reports that the USTR briefing for cleared advisers that took place on February 11<sup>th</sup> revealed that a number of major issues are yet to be resolved in the TPP. These unresolved issues include:

- intellectual property;
- state-owned enterprises; and
- labor rights.

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It is also reported that the TPP is unlikely to be finalized, as hoped by the Obama administration, by April 2014.

**The Trans Pacific Partnership is in trouble on Capitol Hill. Here's why.; (Washington Post; 2/19/14)**

This article reports that there is significant resistance in Congress towards approving President Obama's request for Fast Track authority and the approval of the TPP. Much of the current opposition to Fast Track comes from prominent Congressional Democrats including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. The article suggests that from a political standpoint, it would not be fruitful for the President to push hard for approval of these measures at the current time.

**Article notes: March 31, 2014**  
**Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**Altec CEO Calls for Passage of TPA Legislation; (ALTEC PR, 2/20/14)**

This article reports that Lee Styslinger III, Chairman and CEO of Altec and member of the Trade Benefits Coalition, has announced his support for President Obama's Trade Promotion Authority (Fast Track) that is currently before Congress. Mr Styslinger cited the critical importance to TPA and that it will have positive impact on job creation and economic growth for the U.S.

Altec is an equipment and service provider for the electric utility, telecommunications, contractor, lights and signs and tree care markets and provides services to more than 100 countries.

**Obama Nominates Former SOPA Lobbyist to help lead TPP Negotiations**

**TPP Talks at a Standstill ; (Electronic Frontier Foundation, 3/3/14)**

The first article reports that President Obama has nominated Robert Holleyman, a former lobbyist in favor of the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), to be a Deputy to the USTR and will thus be a part of the US team of negotiators for the TPP. The article points out that this nomination is of interest considering that the TPP talks are currently stalled with a great deal of opposition to the USTR position on providing flexibility on copyright issues.

The second article reports in more detail about the current standstill in TPP negotiations. It appears that many TPP nations, most notably Japan, continue to remain steadfast in their opposition to many of the USTR proposals.

**Ambitious 2014 U.S. Trade Agenda Hailed ; (USCIB; 3/4/14)**

This press release from the United States Council for International Business (USCIB) announces their strong support for President Obama's recently released 2014 Trade Agenda and maintains that that agenda promotes priorities which will expand American trade and investment in the international market and will support expanded domestic job growth and US competitiveness. The press release also states that the President's 2014 Trade Agenda aligns well with USCIB priorities which include:

- Bipartisan congressional approval of TPA (Fast Track);
- Completion of the TPP negotiations;
- Finalizing approval of the Information Technology Agreement;
- Achieve significant progress in the TTIP negotiations; and
- Furthering discussions on a US-China bilateral investment treaty.

**NFTC Welcomes Administration's 2014 Trade Agenda; (NFTC; 3/4/14)**

This press release from the National Foreign Trade Council, Inc. (NFTC) announces their strong support for President Obama's recently released 2014 Trade Agenda. The NFTC strongly supports passage of the President's TPA proposal and congressional approval of the TPP and the TTIP.

**From the Expert: A Transatlantic Partnership for Tomorrow's World (Council of State Governments; 3/5/14)**

This opinion piece, authored by Vital Moreira, Chief of European Parliament's Committee on International Trade, advocates strongly for passage of the TTIP and calls it a "game changer" for the following reasons:

- Traditional tariff barriers still need to be dismantled and headway needs to be made on market access issues such as procurement, services and investment;
- Progress needs to be made on differences on regulations, standards and certifications; and
- More work needs to be done on the development of global standards and rules.

**EU seeks to halt use of famed cheeses names for US foods; (Boston Globe, 3/12/14)**

This article reports EU nations are demanding that the TTIP include provisions which would prohibit US food companies from using European cheese names such as Parmesan and Feta for cheese products sold in the US.

**EU Fear of Hormone Meat, GM Food Sows Divide in Trade Talks ; (Reuters; 3/13/14)**

This article reports on the significant gap between the EU nations and the US on TTIP negotiations regarding European resistance to purchase hormone meat or genetically modified food from the US.

**Transatlantic trade talks hit German snag; (The Financial Times; 3/14/14)**

This article reports that the TTIP negotiations have been hampered by Germany's firm opposition to the inclusion of an Investor-State Dispute Settlement mechanism. The German opposition to ISDS is based on their belief that national courts already provide sufficient legal protection for investors.

**Congressional Letter to USTR; (US Congress; 3/14/14)**

This letter to USTR Michael Froman was signed by 16 US Representatives, including Maine Congressman Michael Michaud, and states their strong opposition to proposed provisions to the TPP pertaining to intellectual property, investment and pharmaceutical reimbursement. The signatories base their opposition on their belief that "... these provisions, if included in the final agreement, would severely threaten access to affordable medicines in the Asia-Pacific region,

particularly in developing countries, and could have potentially serious consequences for patients in developed countries, including the United States.”

**Statement from USTR Michael Froman in Support of 2014 Trade Agenda (USTR Newsletter; 3/14/14)**

This press release from USTR Michael Froman strongly endorses President Obama’s 2014 Trade Agenda by stating that “President Obama’s trade strategy for 2014 is driven by a commitment to create jobs, promote growth, and strengthen the middle class through the creation of new export opportunities for American farmers, workers and businesses.”

**U.S. Objectives, U.S. Benefits in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: A Detailed View; (USTR Newsletter; 3/14/14)**

This statement from the USTR details the US position on a number of key issues to be negotiated in the TTIP including:

- The elimination of all trade tariffs;
- Reciprocal access for textile and apparel products;
- The elimination or reduction of non-tariff trade barriers;
- Compatibility of regulations and standards;
- Development of sanitary and phytosanitary standards based on existing scientific and international standards;
- Improved US market access to EU trade;
- Facilitation of the use electronic commerce to support goods and service trade;
- Securing investment rights that are available under US principles and practice;
- Facilitation of customs and trade procedures;
- Expanded and transparent provisions pertaining to government procurement;
- Recognition and enforcement of labor rights and laws;
- Protection of the environment;
- Protection of intellectual property rights;
- Establishing appropriate trading disciplines pertaining to state-owned enterprises;
- Enhancing the participation of small and medium business enterprises in international trade;
- Promoting measures that further transparency, anticorruption and competition; and
- Establishment of fair and transparent dispute settlement mechanisms for investors and exporters.

**On the Wrong Side of Globalization; (New York Times; 3/15/14)**

This opinion piece, authored by Joseph E. Stiglitz, maintains that as manifested in recent international trade agreements such as the TPP, globalization is not at all advantageous to the overwhelming majority of citizens in any signatory nation. Rather, through provisions like ISDS, globalization benefits international corporations to the detriment of the average citizen and the sanctity of sovereign law.

**Trade judge recommends \$675K fine for DeLorme; (Mainebiz; 3/18/14)**

This article reports that the mapping and GPS company DeLorme, located in Yarmouth, has been fined \$675,000 for a trade-related patent infringement issue.

**New Study Debunks Mining Company “Falsehoods” Regarding El Salvador; (US5.campaign; 3/18/14)**

This article describes the recent efforts by the country of El Salvador to ban extensive mining by a large international corporation named OceanaGold and seeks to provide factual reasons why many of the corporation’s claims and justifications are simply untrue:

- The OceanaGold subsidiary, Pacific Rim, did not satisfy the country’s regulatory requirements;
- Pacific Rim did not adequately study, and thus failed to mitigate, the environmental consequences of its mining ventures in El Salvador;
- The opposition to Pacific Rim within the country is widespread and extends to the Catholic Church hierarchy;
- The mining activities of Pacific Rim has generated conflict and violence throughout the country;
- The willingness of Pacific Rim to rely on political influence, as opposed to meeting regulatory requirements, has possibly resulted in corruption;
- Profits from the mining ventures will be realized by the corporation and its shareholders;
- Pacific Rim is using ISDS rules to subvert the political debate in El Salvador about the desirability of mining ventures in that country; and
- The actual experience of an open-pit mining venture in the Philippines operated by OceanaGold/Pacific Rim illustrates the perils presented by the this type of mining operation.

**The Obama Administration’s Trade Agenda is Crumbling; (Cato Institute; 3/19/14)**

This article puts forth a perspective which argues that the Obama administration trade policy has been relatively ineffective and has not accomplished much in the way of tangible results. Further, the author, Daniel R. Pearson, maintains that is not clear whether the Obama administration has the fortitude or political will necessary to ensure passage of the President’s Fast Track authority and that without passage of Fast Track, congressional approval of whatever has been negotiated for the TPP and the TTIP will be extremely unlikely.

**In Trade Talks, It’s Countries vs. Companies;(Business Week; 3/20/14)**

This article concludes that the advent and widespread use of ISDS mechanisms has evolved into a situation where international corporations are pitted against nations in trade disputes and that in those situations the advantage often goes to corporations. The article points out that the original use of ISDS in trade agreements represented an innovative way that international investments in a developing country could be fairly protected to ensure investor confidence and continued international investments. Since the 1950s, ISDS has evolved into a process which has the

appearance of being undemocratic and one that subverts the sovereignty of many laws, regulations and standards that are designed to protect the environment and overall public safety.

**Concerns about TTIP not just in Europe: Interview with US State Legislator , Sharon Treat; (TTIP2014.EU; 3/26/14)**

This interview with CTPC Chair Representative Sharon A. Treat outlines Representative Treat's concerns and objections to the TTIP which include:

- the TTIP is being used by international corporations who don't want to "play by the rules" and is likely to represent a threat to availability of affordable medicines as well as protection of existing labor and environmental standards;
- significant concerns about the TTIP are not limited to EU nations but are increasingly evident in the U.S.; and
- the TTIP should be used as a vehicle to promote free trade among small manufacturers but not as an instrument which is used to override public health and safety laws and regulations.

**U.S. Trade Deficits Have Grown More Than 440% with FTA Countries, but Declined 16% with Non-FTA Countries; ( Eyes on Trade; 3/28/14)**

This article disputes recent claims by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that Free Trade Agreements (FTA) actually have the effect of reducing U.S. trade deficits. Using economic data which focus on aggregate compilations, the authors of this article state that since 2006, the US trade deficit with FTA countries has increased by more than \$147 billion (adjusted for inflation) whereas the trade deficit with non FTA countries has decreased by more than \$130 billion in that same time period.

**The Facts on Investor-State Dispute Settlement: Safeguarding the Public Interest and Protecting Investors; (USTR; 3/27/14)**

This blog post by the USTR strongly defends the use of ISDS mechanisms in FTAs like the TTP and the TTIP by stating that, "ISDS creates a fair and transparent process, grounded in established legal principles, for resolving individual investment disputes between investors and states." The blog piece also disputes the notion that ISDS limits the ability of signatory nation to properly regulate financial stability, environmental protection or public health. In further defense of the use of ISDS in FTAs that the US has signed on to, the blog piece maintains that ISDS:

- provide the same legal protections for US companies doing business internationally as the protections that exist under US law;
- protect the right of governments to regulate in the public interest;
- do not inhibit the ability of sovereign governments at any level to regulate as they think appropriate;
- do not expose state or local governments to new liabilities;
- do not provide a legal basis for companies to challenge laws simply because profits are adversely affected;

- provide strong safeguards to deter frivolous challenges to legitimate public interest measures;
- ensure a legal process which is fair, unbiased and transparent; and
- ensure arbitration which is independent and impartial.

**Article notes: April 30, 2014**  
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**Japan, Australia agreement could make TPP completion harder; (farmfutures.com, 4/8/14)**

This article reports that Japan and Australia have entered into a bilateral FTA that is likely to have a significant impact on the final stages of the TPP negotiations. In particular, the terms of this FTA allows the exemption of certain agricultural products from a ban on tariffs- a position favored by Japan but opposed by some US agricultural groups in the TPP negotiations. The article quotes a number of US sources who maintain that the Japan-Australia FTA will significantly undermine the hopes for a strong TPP agreement.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Trade Policy Must Give All Americans a Chance to Get Ahead; (tpp-allies; 4/10/14)**

This article is the verbatim text of a speech given on 4/10/14 by US Senator Ron Wyden (D), Oregon. Senator Wyden is Chair of the Senate Finance Committee and delivered this speech to the American Apparel & Footwear Association Conference. Senator Wyden made the following points in his speech:

- Following the lead and example of President John Kennedy, who advocated for strong international trade as a fundamental element of effective foreign policy, Senator Wyden contends that US trade policy must be continually focused on the creation of good paying middle class jobs;
- Senator Wyden supports the TPP and TTIP but only if they meet certain conditions:
  - These FTAs must be enforceable;
  - FTAs must promote digital trade and foster innovation;
  - FTAs must not engage in any type of internet censorship;
  - FTAs must have strong labor and environmental standards; and
  - FTAs must be ambitious and open foreign markets to increased levels of American exports.
- Senator Wyden also advocated for a “smart-track” approach to Congressional approval of FTAs which features a high degree of transparency and the ability of Congress to be involved in negotiated agreements.

**Back to Square One for TTIP: a Green Agenda for Free Trade; (atlantic-community.org; 4/10/14)**

This advocacy piece was authored by Dieter Janccek who is the Green Party’s Spokesperson for Economic Policy in the German parliament. Mr. Janccek advocates that the TTIP should represent high ecological and social standards that are based on shared values held by the US and EU nations. Mr. Janccek also makes the following points:

- Free trade does not necessarily have to result in the disproportionate distribution of benefits and the erosion of long established standards;

- Were the TTIP to adopt a Green agenda, a sustainable and balanced economy could be achieved for all parties involved; and
- The many existing environmental concerns are ones that are shared by the US and the EU nations and the tipping point has been reached in which it makes economic sense to adopt trade policies which seek to alleviate these environmental issues.

**Europe wants its cheese names back, and some Mainers agree; (Portland Press Herald; 4/15/14)**

This article discusses the efforts by EU nations to have the TTIP protect the regional names of many cheese products and the reactions of many in the Maine cheese making community to these proposed restrictions. The general tenor of the comments from Maine cheese producers is somewhat sympathetic to the EU position which is a stance contrary to most US dairy and cheese producer organizations. Some of the Maine perspective may be rooted in our sensitivity to protecting certain Maine brand products such as blueberries and lobsters.

**This Time, Get Global Trade Right; (New York Times; 4/19/14)**

This recent editorial in the New York Times strongly advocates for a process that results in more effective FTAs. With regards to the TTP and the TTIP, the editorial pushes for FTAs that are more effective in promoting free trade but also strive for a more transparent and truly representative process. The editorial opposes the lack of public transparency and the lopsided representation of private business and corporations in the USTR negotiating process. The editorial also supports the inclusion of enforceable environmental and labor standards in both the TPP and the TTIP.

**Why Trade Promotion Authority is Essential for U.S. Agriculture and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership; (United States Department of Agriculture; April 2014)**

This public statement from the USDA strongly supports the approval of Trade Promotion Authority (Fast Track) for the TTIP as a means of significantly boosting American agricultural exports. The rate of growth for American agricultural exports to Europe has not kept pace with the rate of growth for other exported products and a great deal of this relative lack of growth can be attributed to increased international trade competition and a number of bilateral FTA agreements between EU nations and other countries. A successful TTIP would:

- Eliminate trade barriers;
- Resolve disagreements over existing non-tariff barriers; and
- Reduce costs resulting from regulatory differences.

The USDA maintains that approval of Trade Promotion Authority would signal to the EU nations that the USTR has the strong support necessary to negotiate a fair and effective TTIP.

**Obama, Abe and a high-stakes trade deal (bbc.com; 4/24/14)**

This article reports on the importance of a successfully negotiated TPP to both the US and Japan, albeit from different economic and political perspectives. From the US perspective, the TPP is a crucial element of President Obama's "Asian pivot" to maintain US influence in Asia and promote trade with the world's fastest growing economic and regional sector. From the perspective of Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, an effective TPP will boost Japan's economic growth which has been stalled in recent years.

**Why Corporations Are Freaking Out About Obama's Big Trade Deal; (Huffington Post; 4/24/14)**

This article focuses on the perspective shared by an increasing number of prominent US businesses that FTAs like the TPP have failed to effectively address issues like excessive currency manipulation by US trading partners such as Japan. In particular, the recent Japanese policy of lowering the value of the yen has the effect of lowering the price of Japanese goods without lowering living standards in Japan. This policy of currency manipulation has the effect of lowering the amount of international goods that are imported into Japan. Large US auto manufactures like Ford are opposed to approval of the TPP if it does not effectively address the issue of currency manipulation. The article also makes the point that in many cases, FTAs like the TPP have the real effect of furthering foreign policy goals rather than achieving an improved international trade climate.

**Obama warns South Korea over treatment of US exporters; (Financial Times; 4/25/14)**

This article reports on the growing US frustration with South Korea's alleged failure to fully implement the recent US- South Korea FTA which was finalized in 2012. In particular, the article reports that South Korea has implemented a policy of unprecedented level of investigations of US imports and their "Country of Origin" status. These investigations could lead to the imposition of millions of dollars' worth of tariffs on imported US goods. The US has been warning South Korea that continuation of a failure to fully implement the 2012 FTA will significantly reduce any chance that South Korea can participate in or benefit from the TPP.

**German MEP Doubts TTIP Deal Before 2017, Urges Rethink of Agenda; (Inside US Trade; 4/25/14)**

This article focuses on the recent public comments made by Reinhard Buetikofer, a prominent member of the German Parliament and representative of the Green Party. Mr. Buetikofer maintains that the TTIP is unlikely to be approved in its present form before 2017 and cites several reasons to support his contention:

- President Obama is unlikely to receive Congressional approval of his Trade Promotion Authority proposal before the end of his term; many Democrats oppose TPA and Republicans are unwilling to grant the President any kind of economic or foreign policy success;

- From the EU perspective, the European Commission is likely to have a realignment of power at the end of 2014 and thus will be less inclined to further pursue the present direction of TTIP negotiations which he characterizes as the resolution of regulatory differences, cooperation on technology issues like ‘e-mobility’ and promoting clean transportation;
- In addition, the European perspective on the TTIP is beginning to reflect concern about three perceived agendas on the TTIP which are sometimes contradictory:
  1. A “common sense” agenda of cooperative efforts to create jobs through increased trade;
  2. An agenda which promotes a strategic US-EU alliance; and
  3. An agenda in which multinational corporations are able to accomplish all of their goals of the past 25 years that have been thwarted by national policies, laws, rules and standards.

**Article notes: July 23, 2014**  
**Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**Revised WTO Government Procurement Agreement to Enter Into Force April 6; (Bloomberg News; 3/12/14)**

This article reports that WTO's Government Procurement Agreement (GPA), which was first adopted in 2011, has been revised through approval of a set of amendments by at least 2/3rds of the original parties.

The revised GPA primarily includes:

- New and improved market access commitments; and
- Provisions granting special and preferential treatment for developing countries.

As a part of the newly revised GPA, the US will now subject 12 additional federal agencies to GPA disciplines including the Social Security Administration and the Transportation Security Administration. A total of 13 states (not including Maine) have exempted themselves from the US commitment to the GPA.

**Protecting Public Health in the TPP Agreement: Results from a national survey of likely voters; (Greenberg/Quinlan/Rosner Research and Public Opinion Strategies; 3/18/14)**

A recent national survey showed that likely voters in the US want public health to be protected in negotiations for FTAs like the TPP. Other more specific results from the surveyed individuals included:

- public health issues are as important as job protection for FTAs;
- FTAs are supported by a significant majority of those polled;
- FTAs should not include provisions that result in economic benefits at the expense of negative impacts on public health; and
- Tobacco companies are viewed quite negatively and a strong majority favor FTA provisions which recognize a nation's right to regulate tobacco.

**Grand majority of Parliament votes in favor of a regulation on investor-state lawsuits – Greens sharply criticize the result (TTIP2014 Blog; 4/16/14)**

This brief article details recent steps the Green Party has taken to oppose to the inclusion of ISDS provisions in the TTIP.

**TISA versus Public Services; PSI Special Report: The Trade in Services Agreement and the corporate agenda; (Public Services International; 4/28/14)**

This lengthy report describes the ongoing negotiations between 50 countries to develop and finalize a Trade in Services Agreement (TISA). This effort is strongly opposed by the organization (Public Services International) who issued this report by contending that TISA will:

- Prevent governments from returning public services to public employees when privatization efforts fail;
- Significantly restrict domestic regulations pertaining to public safety;
- Limit environmental regulations;
- Limit consumer protections;
- Limit regulations pertaining to licensing of health care facilities, power plants, waste disposal and university and school accreditation;
- Treat migrant workers as commodities and limit any governmental effort to protect their rights;
- Further deregulate financial markets;
- Benefit powerful countries, multinational corporations and wealthy consumers; and
- Adversely affect displaced workers, create downward pressure to encourage lower wages, disadvantage users of public services and small businesses that cannot afford to compete with large corporations.

**Letter to USTR from Non-profit Organizations (4/30/14)**

This letter, dated April 30, 2014, was sent by eleven prominent non-profit organizations to USTR Michael Froman. This letter states the firm opposition of the signatories to any provision in the TPP significantly affecting US prescription drug programs, “... *the alteration of our nation’s policies on Medicare reimbursement and patent standards should not be subject to binding provisions in international agreements like the TPP drafted through a process with little public transparency.*”

**Optimism fading on both sides trans-Atlantic trade talks; (Policy Review; May 2014)**

This article reports on a recent survey of influential TTIP stakeholders. The results of the survey indicate that:

- The final TTIP is likely to be less comprehensive and far reaching than was originally envisioned;
- The TTIP is more likely to focus on current international trade issues such as data privacy and less on traditional FTA topics such as agriculture, labor standards and environmental standards; and
- The TTIP is not likely to be finalized until at least 2016 and perhaps later.

**International Trade Agreements and Maine Lobster; (Landings; Maine Lobstermen's Community Alliance; May 2014)**

This article provides a basic overview of FTAs like NFTA and the current efforts to negotiate the TPP and the TTIP. The traditional use of tariffs to protect certain national products from cheaper international imports is described but the article draws attention to the fact that recent FTAs are less concerned with tariffs and more focused on non-tariff issues such as the adoption of international standards. As one example of what might be negotiated in the TPP and TTIP, the article points out that many nations would like to see a relaxation of the high standards of the current US process for inspecting seafood, thereby resulting in greater amounts of nondomestic seafood being imported into the US.

The article also includes numerous quotes from CTPC Co-Chair Representative Sharon Anglin Treat about the possible disadvantages of chapters that are currently being negotiated in the TPP and the TTIP including the harmonization of food and public safety standards, the use of ISDS and she also discusses President Obama's current proposal for fast track authority.

**The Anti-Localization Agenda in TTIP; (www.commondreams.org; 5/5/14)**

This article, authored by Karen Hansen-Kuhn, co-author of the 2014 CTPC Assessment, discusses the implications of what may result from the TTIP. While on the one-hand, commonly sought goals of shared standards and open markets may be achieved, the actual manifestations of this approach may not be mutually advantageous to either the US or the EU. In particular, the efforts to diminish "localization" seek to challenge the existence of trade barriers that are not authorized in the TTIP. The practical impact of the move to reduce the impacts of localization portend a trading environment which heavily favors the interests of large international corporations and diminishes the current efforts in the US and the EU (and elsewhere in the world) to promote the localization of trade and sustainable local economies.

**STATES AND SMALL BUSINESSES SHUT OUT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS; (www.vtdigger.org ; 5/16/14)**

This article discusses the potential impact of the TTIP and how it might negatively affect the trade economy of a small state like Vermont. The article emanated from a recent forum titled "International Trade and the Environment" sponsored by the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators recently in Vermont. Chief among the concerns expressed in the article was the lack of transparency that exists in the secret ongoing TTIP negotiations. In addition, grave concerns were aired about the failure to actively include small businesses and states in the negotiating process.

**CRITICS SAY FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS COULD BE THREATENED BY U.S./EU TRADE AGREEMENT; (www.foodsafetynews.com ; 5/16/14)**

This article briefly reviews the relative veil of secrecy surrounding the current TTIP negotiations and cites the concerns of many consumer advocates that the TTIP is likely to undermine current food safety, environmental, public health and labor standards in the name of eliminating trade

barriers. The perceived quest for a harmonization of standards is particularly threatening to current regulatory standards pertaining to food standards, especially when such an approach is applied to the EU's use of the "precautionary principle" to scientifically determine on a proactive basis whether a particular food product is safe for use by the public. Sources quoted in the article maintain that the TTIP is a regulatory document intended to prevent regulatory differences between the US and the EU.

**What's the secret? Closed door U.S. – EU trade talks put environmental and public safeguards at risk; (Friends of the Earth; 5/19/14)**

This blog piece from FOE restates its opposition to the high degree of secrecy being used in the current TTIP negotiations and voices significant concerns regarding the current efforts to lowering regulatory standards which will have a negative impact on current regulatory efforts to protect the environment and public health.

**Europe trade deal threatens food safety; Friends of the Earth protests corporate capture of trade policy at USTR stakeholder event (www.foe.org : 5/21/14)**

This recent press release from FOE highlights its allegations that the TTIP poses a grave threat to existing food safety regulatory standards on both sides of the Atlantic.

**WTO Final Ruling: European Ban on Products from Inhumane Seal Harvest Violates WTO; (www.eyesontrade.com; 5/22/14)**

This public statement from Lori Wallach, Director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, states her organization's strong opposition to a recent WTO decision to overturn a EU ban on the importation of seal products in which the seals were killed using inhumane means. The WTO ruling overturned this public interest regulation by maintaining that the justification for such a ban did not meet a litany of conditions required to justify such a ban and thus overturn the tenants of the WTO.

**Statement on TPP Negotiations; (US Wheat Associates; 5/28/14)**

This press release, jointly authored by the US Wheat Associates, the USA Rice Federation, the National Pork Producers Council and the International Dairy Foods Association, expressed their pessimism about the ultimate fate of the TPP. Their negative view point is based on Japan's continued opposition to the removal of Japanese tariffs on seven basic agricultural products: dairy, sugar, rice, beef, pork, wheat and barley.

**CORPORATE CAPTURE; EUROPE TRADE TALKS THREATEN ENVIRONMENT; (Friends of the Earth, US; 5/29/14)**

This blog piece by FOE briefly reviews the current emphasis on the removal of regulatory trade barriers in the TTIP and identifies a number of threats to environmental and public health if regulations are standardized:

- Lower regulatory standards could interfere with efforts to curb pollution and reduce global warming through the current restrictions on the burning and use of fossil fuels;
- The use of ISDS in the TTIP could also threaten environmental standards if corporations sue to ensure expected profits from future oil and gas drilling;
- The EU approach to the regulation of toxic chemicals could be diminished through the use of regulatory harmonization;
- The current EU restrictions on GMO products could be dismantled through the imposition of lower regulatory standards;
- The TTIP could impose intellectual property restrictions to include patents on plants, animals and other life forms that grow naturally on the planet;
- The inclusion of procurement restrictions in the TTIP could put an end to “buy local” programs that are authorized on the state level; and
- The lowering of food safety standards could imperil existing safeguards on either side of the Atlantic.

**Fight Brews In Wake of EU Elections, But Limited TTIP Impact Expected; (Inside U.S. Trade; 5/30/14)**

This article reports on the impending struggle that the European Council and the European Parliament will engage in over who will control the next European Commission. While the current authority for the existing EU executive branch ends on October 31<sup>st</sup>, it is not expected that any changes in leadership will significantly affect the EU stance in the TTIP negotiations.

**EU Pursues Strong Energy Chapter In TTIP, Along The Lines Of Leaked Paper; (Inside U.S. Trade; 6/2/14)**

This article reports on the contents of a recent EU position paper on energy that has been leaked. In brief, the EU is apparently pushing for a forceful energy chapter which will significantly reduce domestic energy export restrictions that currently exist in the US. The EU proposals would also limit the ability to pass regulations which regulate the transmission and transportation of energy products.

**U.S., Japan Still Far Apart in Ag Talks; Safeguard Among Difficulties; (Inside U.S. Trade; 6/2/14)**

This article reports on the significant disagreements between US and Japanese trade negotiators on certain agricultural trade issues in the TPP. In particular, the two sides disagree on the parameters of a proposed safeguard mechanism regarding beef and pork; the proposed mechanism would allow tariffs for these products to return to previous levels if tariff reductions in the TPP lead to a significant increase in imports. At question, is the length of time necessary for the safeguard mechanism to take effect.

**House-Passed Funding Bill Aims to Block USTR From Negotiating on Procurement; (Inside U.S. Trade; 6/2/14)**

Among other items, this article reports that the US House of Representatives recently approved legislation which would prohibit the USTR from negotiating trade agreements that would affect the current procurement procedures and regulations used by the federal government.

**Transatlantic trade: Hard sell; Today the EU-US trade talks are facing a growing number of political obstacles; (Financial Times; 6/8/14)**

This article reviews the diminished expectations for the TTIP. Originally conceived as a trading pact which would revive the US and EU economies after the 2008 global financial crisis, the TTIP has now become mired in a number of political obstacles which include:

- The controversy over geographical indicators such as localized brands and types of cheese;
- The recent revelations over NSA spying of various EU countries;
- Strong European resistance to the possible inclusion of ISDS provisions into the TTIP;
- Disagreement over the extent and use of agricultural tariffs;
- Strong US congressional opposition to President Obama's Fast Track proposal; and
- Disagreement over the various national and state-level procurement policies and programs.

**BUSINESS V STATE INVESTMENT DISPUTES IN EU SPOTLIGHT; (BBC; 6/11/14)**

This article reviews the topic of ISDS and its possible inclusion in the TTIP. The concept behind ISDS is described as "foreign investors should be able to into independent arbitration if they believe they have been treated by a host government in a way that broaches an international investment agreement. If they win, they may get compensation." While the article states that the attractions of ISDS for investors is obvious, it raises the question as to why governments would agree to such an arrangement and suggests two answers:

1. ISDS will attract foreign investors; and
2. When ISDS is offered in a bilateral trade agreement like the TTIP, the same protections are afforded to a native investor doing business in a foreign nation.

The arguments posed in opposition to ISDS include:

- ISDS is a "powerful corporate weapon used to delay, weaken and kill regulation"; and
- ISDS is alleged to provide foreign corporations with special privileges; and
- ISDS does not provide the economic benefits that proponents claim.

Recent research concluded that there have been 568 known ISDS cases since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and that:

- 43% were resolved in favor of the nation defending itself;

- 31% were resolved in favor of the investor; and
- The remaining 26% were settled outside of ISDS arbitration.

**US states demand more say in TTIP negotiations; Retaining rights to regulate chemicals a concern; (Chem Watch; 6/12/14)**

Representatives of the New England states, including Maine and Vermont, are considering grouping together to demand more effective representation during the current TTIP negotiations. Foremost among the concerns of those state officials who are involved in this effort, is the possibility of the imposition of regulatory standards which would preempt or significantly reduce a state's ability to regulate effectively. Also of paramount concern, is the threat that ISDS tribunals represent to the sovereignty of state authority and the integrity of the US court system. Of particular regulatory concern, is the ability of states to effectively regulate the use of chemicals to protect public health and the environment.

**French concerns over geographical indications will hamper TTIP talks; (EurActiv France; 6/18/14)**

As a further aspect of European concerns over the need to protect agricultural products that are inextricably linked to geographical indications (such as wine and cheese), French officials are leading the way in demanding that the TTIP include protections regarding the use of Internet domain names such as “.vin” and “.wine”.

**Obama says hopes for Pacific trade pact in November; (Reuters; 6/20/14)**

This article reports that President Obama is still hoping for the TPP to be completed by November of this year. This hoped-for timetable is causing some apprehension by congressional supporters who fear that union opposition to the TPP will become an election issue for the upcoming midterm congressional elections in early November. The article also mentions the recent US-Japan impasse over Japanese tariffs on certain agricultural imports.

**The Pacific trade deal, Fast Track and the 2014 elections; (foe.org; 6/20/14)**

This blog piece from FOE recounts an interview between Bill Warren and the host of a Minnesota radio program. The points made by Mr. Warren in this interview include:

- The TPP is nearing final completion and continues to pose a threat to existing environmental and public health regulations as well as granting intellectual property rights to large international corporations that would have the effect of establishing a monopoly on pharmaceutical products resulting in the ability to patent natural life forms;
- If approved, President Obama's Fast Track proposal will result in the TPP being approved by Congress with no real debate and no opportunity for amendments; and
- The upcoming midterm elections in November may present an opportunity for TPP congressional supporters to be elected and thus furthering the chance of TPP ratification by Congress.

**Why TAFTA/TTIP Isn't Worth It Economically, And How We Can Do Much Better;**  
**(techdirt.com; 6/25/14)**

This opinion piece posted on techdirt.com offers a point of view that is highly critical of the TTIP and suggests that the real impact of the agreement will be the huge financial gains that will be realized by international corporations and that there has been little meaningful study about how these financial gains will affect the US and EU economies. The author cites prominent economists who maintain that any real growth in the economy will be minimal and will not benefit the public as a whole. Financial gains are likely to be realized by the corporations themselves with an actual result of job losses and higher prices for crucial items like pharmaceuticals.

**US embassy in Berlin sparks TTIP Twitter tangle; (euractiv.com; 6/26/14)**

This article reports that the US embassy in Berlin recently sent out a tweet that offered a reward of up to \$20,000 for pro-TTIP projects. The article also reports on the largely negative storm of reactions to this effort to engender support for the TTIP.

**U.S. Catfish Program Could Stymie Pacific Trade Agreement; (New York Times; 6/27/14)**

This article reports that 10 Asian and Pacific nations participating in the TPP negotiations, including Vietnam and Malaysia, have signed a letter of formal protest sent to the USTR about a catfish inspection program which has been administered by the US Department of Agriculture since the program's initial authorization by Congress in 2008. The letter alleges that the program is in fact a trade barrier that violates provisions of the WTO agreements. The article further reports that disagreements over this issue could pose a significant threat to finalization of the TPP negotiations.

**United States and WTO Partners Announce Launch of Negotiations for Environmental Goods Agreement; (USTR News; 7/8/14)**

This press release from the USTR announced the beginning of negotiations between the US and 13 other WTO members on a new Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA). The intended goal of the EGA is to eliminate tariffs on environmental goods such as wind turbines, water treatment filters and solar water heaters.

**Bolivia Shows How To Dismantle Corporate Sovereignty Provisions in Treaties Without Losing Foreign Investment; (techdirt.com; 7/15/14)**

This article from techdirt.com reports on the efforts that Bolivia has taken to counter ISDS provisions in the numerous bilateral FTAs that it has entered into. In brief, starting in 2000, the government of Bolivia successfully challenged corporate ownership of certain water rights and basically bypassed any ISDS provisions of trade agreements that the country had previously entered into. This action established a precedent which led to Bolivia's withdrawal from the most

prominent ISDS forum and the inclusion in the new Bolivian constitution of a provision which forbids the nation from settling investment related disputes using the ISDS tribunal process.

The article also reports that, contrary to previously widely held assumptions that Bolivia would lose significant amounts of international trade, that Bolivia has experienced a 35% increase in foreign investment in 2012 and that many other nations have retained economic ties with Bolivia in part to due to their own very negative experiences of being sued by foreign investors using the ISDS tribunals.

**MEPs wary of commission's approach to TTIP negotiations; (The Parliament Magazine; 7/16/14)**

This article reports on a recent debate in the British parliament regarding recent TTIP negotiations. The following points of view were included in the article:

- Members of Parliament (MEPs) were disdainful that they only learn about TTIP negotiations through leaked text;
- MEPs were also critical of a treaty that results in lowered standards of regulation particularly with regards to banking and financing rules;
- Citing recent reports of espionage and data theft, MEPs were distrustful of US motives and actions; and
- The possible inclusion of ISDS provisions in the TTIP drew heavy criticism with statements that civil society was strongly against inclusion of these tribunals in the TTIP.

**States get proactive on trade agreements: The Maine model; (iatp.org; 7/16/14)**

This blog piece, authored by Karen Hansen-Kuhn (co-author of the 2014 CTPC Assessment), provides a very complimentary overview of the proactive approach used by Maine to understanding trade agreements through the creation of the CTPC. This piece also briefly reviews the main conclusions of the 2014 CTPC Assessment.

**Article notes: October 7, 2014**  
**Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**EUROPEAN LAWMAKERS THREATEN TO SCUPPER CANADA TRADE DEAL;**  
***(Reuters; 8/28/14)***

This article reports that EU lawmakers were threatening to vote down a free trade agreement with Canada because it included ISDS provisions. Many EU lawmakers oppose the inclusion of ISDS provisions because of the perceived ability of multinational corporations to sue governments over regulations and laws that are seen as casing the corporations to lose profits. One lawmaker said, “ Giving corporations the right to sue governments for loss of anticipated profits would be ridiculous if it were not so dangerous.”

**Is This EU-US Trade Deal A “Once-In-A-Generation” Opportunity?(Forbes; 8/28/14)**

This article skeptically reviews the claim from a member of the British Parliament that the TTIP is a “once-in-a-generation” opportunity that will result in significant job and economic growth. The article recounts the lack of transparency in the current TTIP negotiations, highlights the dangers of ISDS provisions and the threat to public services and government procurement contracts that the TTIP is alleged to likely contain when it is finally completed.

**Low Expectations for Hanoi Round cast Doubt on November TPP Result; (Inside US Trade; 8/29/14)**

This article reports that the next round of informal TPP talks scheduled to take place in Hanoi in early September are not likely to result in a final TPP agreement being finalized in November- a publically stated goal of the Obama administration. Among the latest hurdles facing the TPP negotiations are controversial and unresolved topics regarding intellectual property protections for pharmaceuticals, disciplines for state-owned enterprises, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and labor rights.

**American Envoy to Brussels Says EU Needs TTIP Benefits More Than US; (Inside US Trade; 9/4/14)**

The newly appointed US Ambassador to Brussels, Anthony Gardner, stated publically that because of Europe’s “continuing sluggish economic performance” that Europe needs the economic benefits of the TTIP more than the US does. Ambassador Gardner also dismissed current EU concerns about GMO issues and sanitary washes for meat and poultry as “peripheral” and stated the need for a comprehensive trade agreement to be finalized in the near future. Additional remarks from Ambassador Gardner also criticized those who allege that the TTIP negotiations are lacking in transparency and he sought to dispel allegations that the US procurement market is more closed and restrictive than that of the EU nations.

***New Trade Deal- TISA- Could Undermine Safety, Environmental, Workers' Rights Regs; (AFL-CIO Blog; 9/5/14)***

This blog post seeks to explain the current negotiations between the US and other WTO members for the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA). While the negotiators for TISA allege that the treaty will liberalize trade and investment in services and also expand regulations on services, many critics claim that TISA will effectively remove regulatory barriers to trade thus imperiling many crucial regulations and laws concerning public safety, the environment and various workers' rights. The blog post also highlights the secrecy and lack of transparency around the current TISA negotiations.

***Nomination of Cecilia Malmstrom as E.U. Trade Envoy Signals Interest in U.S. Talks; (New York Times; 9/10/14)***

The recent appointment of Ms. Cecilia Malmstrom as EU Trade Envoy by Jean-Claude Juncker, President-elect of the European Commission, is seen as a reflection of his strong interest in rejuvenating the somewhat stalled TTIP negotiations.

***Vietnamese Delegation Heading to Washington Next Week to Talk TPP; (US Trade Today; 9/12/14)***

This article reports on the September visit from a high-level Vietnamese trade delegation to Washington. One of the main purposes of the visit was to discuss the TPP and thus highlight the Vietnamese interest in gaining market access in the US for apparel and footwear.

***EU chairs next round of plurilateral talks on services; ( trade.ec.europa.eu; 9/19/14)***

This brief article reports on the next round of TISA negotiations that were to take place in Geneva on September 21<sup>st</sup>. One of the focuses of these talks is to center on four regulatory disciplines: financial services, telecommunications, domestic regulation & transparency, and "mode 4" [Staff Note: the WTO website has this to say about Mode 4: "*The movement of natural persons is one of the four ways through which services can be supplied internationally. Otherwise known as "Mode 4", it covers natural persons who are either service suppliers (such as independent professionals) or who work for a service supplier and who are present in another WTO member to supply a service.*"]

***Cecilia Malmstrom, E.U. Trade Nominee, Points to 'Toxic Element' in U.S. Talks; (new York Times; 9/30/14)***

Cecilia Malmstrom, nominated to be the next EU trade commissioner, told a hearing of the European Parliament that the inclusion of ISDS provisions in the TTIP was a "nuclear weapon" that may have to be excluded from the final negotiated version of the TTIP. The article goes on to state that European opposition to ISDS is rooted in a belief that the US would use this provision to overturn European laws and regulations concerning the environment, food safety and publicly funded health care.

**USTR: TPP Briefing Schedule; (USTR; 10/1/14)**

The USTR released a draft agenda of a briefing for cleared advisors and liaisons that will take place regarding the TPP in Washington DC on October 9<sup>th</sup>. The detailed agenda includes presentations on Rules of Origin, Financial Services, Cross Border Services & Non-conforming Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Market Access (Agriculture), Environment and Intellectual Property.

**The trade clause that overrules governments; (Washington Post; 10/1/14)**

This opinion piece discusses the possible inclusion of ISDS provisions in the TTIP and offers the writer's opinion on why he is opposed to ISDS- namely "the mockery that the ISDS procedure can make of a nation's laws...". He also cites recent European opposition to ISDS and suggests that the inclusion of ISDS in the TTIP, which is strongly supported by President Obama, would paradoxically threaten to undermine some of his landmark achievements including the fight against pollution and global warming and his "commitment to a single standard of justice."