

Article notes

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Articles from October, November and December 2016

- ***Canada and E.U. Sign Trade Deal, Bucking Resistance to Globalization; (N.Y. Times; 10/31/16)*** – This news article reports that the EU and Canada have both ratified a new free trade agreement which in some respects resembles the still-to-be finalized TTIP between the U.S. and the EU. The article further reports that ratification was held up within the EU due to the objections of Wallonia, the French-speaking region of Belgium. The Belgian objections were withdrawn after assurances were made regarding additional protections for farmers would be included in the agreement. In addition, Belgium declared that the agreement’s arbitration system would be referred to the EU Court of Justice to assess its legality. The article also contains statements from prominent economists who concluded that ratification of this agreement helps free trade to survive in the current environment.
- ***TPP is too flawed for a simple “yes” vote; (Boston Globe; 11/8/16)*** – This opinion piece, written by Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, discusses the pros and cons of the TPP and reluctantly concludes that Congress should not approve the agreement. In particular, the author believes that the TPP can be thought of as having 4 distinct and complex parts:
 - A free trade agreement which virtually eliminates tariffs and quotas, expands trade and discourages protectionism;
 - Creates useful regulatory standards for trade;
 - Establishes regulations pertaining to investor rights, intellectual property and key service sectors such as telecommunications, financial services, e-commerce and pharmaceuticals- all of which “*enshrine the power of corporate capital above all other parts of society, including labor and even governments*”;
 - Establishes standards on labor and the environment which are “*thin, unenforceable and generally unimaginative*”.

The author laments the up or down limitations imposed by the recent Fast Track legislation and saves his most stringent criticism for the ISDS concluding that it is “*a dangerous and unnecessary grant of powers to investors and a blow to the judicial systems of all the signatory countries.*”

- ***What is Lost by Burying the Trans-Pacific Partnership?; (N.Y. Times; 11/11/16)*** – This article reports that congressional leaders have concluded that the TPP will not be approved by Congress and won’t even be considered by the current lame duck session of Congress. The article goes on to list the benefits of the TPP which will not be realized as well as the disadvantages of failure to ratify:

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Articles from August, September and October 2016

Not Just a Court System, It's a Gold Mine; (Buzzfeed, 8/31/16) – This article discusses at length the different ways that the ISDS mechanism within FTAs has been used in recent years to the advantage of large multinational corporations. The article makes the point that the use and application of ISDS goes far beyond the original intentions of how ISDS was to be used by developing nations that lacked stable and fair judicial systems.

Slow-Moving EU “Solvency” Negotiations Test Patience of U.S. Insurance Industry; (Inside U.S. Trade; 8/31/16)- This article reports on the progress of bilateral trade negotiations between the US and the EU with regards to unfettered access of US insurance companies to the EU insurance market. The goal is one of “regulatory equivalency” in insurance regulations so that the status quo of the existing market may continue. US insurance companies fear that they may be soon restricted from conducting reinsurance business in countries like Germany.

The Climate Cost of Free Trade: How the TPP and trade deals undermine the Paris climate agreement; (Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy, September 2016) – The Executive Summary for this lengthy study focusses on the numerous instances in which it is alleged that FTAs like the TPP are in conflict (and ignore) the requirements included in the recently signed United Nations Paris climate agreement.

Consumer Groups Charge TPP Provisions Undermine Important Consumer Protections; (Inside U.S. Trade; 9/6/16) – This article reports on the concerns of two large consumer organizations, Consumer Union and Consumer Federation of America, have regarding provisions in the TPP which they allege weaken and undermine existing consumer protections. These two groups, representing a total of more than 250 consumer organizations, sent letters to Congress spelling out their concerns with the TPP including the use of ISDS.

As White House Spotlights Conflict With Democratic Presidential and Congressional Candidates by Escalating Toward TPP Lame-Duck Vote, Sen. Warren and Hundreds of Academics Urge Rejection; (Public Citizen; 9/7/16) – This article reports that more than 200 legal scholars have joined together in writing a letter to Congress warning that inclusion of ISDS in the TPP “*threatens the rule of law and undermines our democratic institutions*”.

More Wealth, More Jobs, but Not for Everyone: What Fuels the Backlash on Trade; (New York Times, 9/29/16) – This lengthy article examines the long held economic belief that international trade “*expands national wealth by lowering the price of goods, lifting wages and amplifying growth*”. The article contends that while this may be true for some sectors of the economy, that there is a demonstrable inequity on how free trade has affected many workers within the domestic US economy- particularly with those individuals working within industry and manufacturing.

Toxic Buffet: How the TPP Trades Away Seafood Safety; (Food & Water Watch; October 2016)- This lengthy report examines how the already strained seafood safety process in the U.S. is likely to be overwhelmed by massive new amounts of imported seafood as a result of the TPP. In particular, the report alleges that unsafe and unsanitary seafood may be imported in the US from countries like Vietnam and Malaysia that have significantly lower standards for seafood safety than those currently used in the US.

7 ways the Trans Pacific Partnership threatens people and the planet; (Friends of the Earth; 10/7/16) – This advocacy article holds that the TPP represents a significant threat to the ability of governments to develop effective environmental and climate policies. In particular, the article identifies 7 specific threats represented by the TPP:

1. TPP investment tribunals [ISDS] subvert democracy;
2. The TPP undermines sound climate policy;
3. The TPP deal threatens bees;
4. The TPP threatens deregulation of chemical safety standards;
5. The TPP undercuts prudent food safety regulations;
6. TPP encourages GMOs; and
7. TPP puts family farms at risk.

The CETA Trade Pact Will Add to the Groundswell of Discontent: Why We Need More Informed Decision-Making; (nakedcapitalism.com; 10/7/16)- This opinion piece discusses the alleged dangers of adopting the TTIP and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) which is currently being negotiated between Canada and the EU. In particular, the author warns against the distributional inequities that he alleges are manifest in both agreements and suggests that a better understanding of what these free trade agreements actually consist of is needed within the affected societies.

Report: EU Geographical Indication Policies Would Hurt U.S. Dairy Industry; (Inside U.S. Trade; 10/11/16) – This article reports on the conclusions of a recent report issued by The Consortium for Common Food Names. The consortium’s report concludes that inclusion of the geographical indicators advocated by the EU for inclusion in the TTIP could cost the U.S. dairy industry \$59 billion and a loss of 175,000 jobs over the next 10 years. The use of geographical indicators would prohibit the marketing of certain agricultural products through the use of a regional name, such as “Feta Cheese”.

Windstream Energy awarded damages after Ontario cancels wind farm project; (The Globe and Mail; 10/13/16)- This news article reports that a large international energy company that planned to build an offshore wind farm in Lake Ontario, has successfully used the ISDS provisions within NAFTA to sue the Canadian government for more than \$25 million for canceling the project.

Letter to President Obama; (AARP, AFL-CIO, Consumers Union, OXFAM America and Doctors Without Borders; 10/26/16) – This letter, signed by prominent labor, citizen and professional organizations, was recently sent to President Obama and expresses the concern of the signatory organizations regarding provisions within the TPP which would establish 12 year periods of exclusivity for the marketing of newly developed biologics, this having the effect of

driving up costs for all nations- especially those with fragile or developing economies.

- The US position as an economic and military counterweight to China in the Asia region will be severely undercut;
 - As an alternative to the TPP, the other signatory nations are likely to ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which includes China and 15 other Asian countries but excludes the US;
 - Some 18,000 tariffs affecting imports from the US will not be eliminated; and
 - Provisions ensuring an open internet, prohibitions against wildlife trafficking, extended protections for intellectual property, prohibitions on child labor, and help for small businesses will not occur.
- **TISA ministerial canceled because a deal in 2016 has been ruled out; (Inside U.S. Trade; 11/18/16)** – This article reports that negotiators for the Trade In Services Agreement (TISA) have recently concluded that a planned ministerial meeting would not take place in early December 2016 because of the inability to finalize the agreement in 2016. The article also reports that some observers are hopeful that President-elect Trump will be more amenable to approving a free trade agreement such as TISA.
 - **A Retreat From TPP Would Empower China ; (N.Y. Times; 11/21/16)** – This editorial from the New York Times expresses strong support for the approval of the TPP and warns of the dangers to the US geopolitical status in the Asia region and argues that failure to approve the TPP will effectively cede a great deal of status and power to China.
 - **The TPP is over. What happens now?; (CNN; 11/22/16)** – This opinion piece, authored by Mathew Davis, Head of the International Relations Department at the Australian National University, examines some of the consequences of President-elect Trump's decision not to approve the TPP:
 - The TPP was much more than just an economic agreement and can be more completely understood as President Obama's effort "*to rebalance America's strategic resources to the Pacific to face a rising China*";
 - The abandonment of the TPP is likely to lead to consideration of China's proposed free trade agreement known as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which does not include the US and is widely seen as the alternative to the TPP; and
 - Some Asian nations are now considering a new economic agreement between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Pacific Alliance of 4 Central American nations as an alternative to the TPP.
 - **Trump just announced he'd abandon the TPP on day one. This is what happens next.; (Washington Post; 11/22/16)** – This article also attempts to speculate on what might happen as a result of President-elect Trump's decision not to approve the TPP and concludes that most of the other nations participating in the TPP negotiations have concluded that the TPP is effectively dead and are likely to turn to alternative trade agreements such as RCEP and the stalled Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) which includes 21 Pacific Rim nations of which the US is one.

- **What's the difference between TTIP and TPP and why does Donald Trump want them scrapped?; (Telegraph; 11/22/16)** – This article attempts to compare the TPP and the TTIP and discusses why President-elect Trump is opposed to both agreements;
 - The TPP is described as an agreement involving 12 Pacific Rim nations which “will create a free-trade zone with common labour and environmental standards, and measures to protect data and intellectual property of large companies.”;
 - The TTIP is described as an agreement between the US and the EU which is “intended to bring about lower trade tariffs, and to reduce regulatory barriers that make trade between the US and the EU more costly than it need be.”;
 - President-elect Trump is against these specific trade agreements because he believes that these FTAs “will hurt American workers and undercut US companies.”
- **A Progressive Agenda for Renegotiating NAFTA; (BillMoyers.com; 11/22/16)** – The author of this commentary, Timothy A. Wise, Senior Research Fellow at Tuft University’s Global Development and Environment Institute, suggests ways, however unlikely, that President-elect Trump could renegotiate NAFTA:
 - Rewrite provisions to reverse the situation which then Senator Barack Obama described in 2008 as “While NAFTA gave broad rights to investors, it paid only lip service to the rights of labor and the importance of environmental protection”;
 - Revise NAFTA’s Investment Chapter to eliminate the ISDS provisions to arbitrate trade disputes; and
 - Revise US immigration policy to ensure that undocumented workers can be represented by unions.
- **Donald Trump Carrier Deal Previews New War on US Trade Deals; (International Business Times; 12/1/16)** – This article examines the recent situation in which President-elect Trump helped to negotiate a decision by Indiana-based manufacturer Carrier to keep approximately 1,000 jobs in Indiana instead of moving them to Mexico. The premise of the article is that this kind of move, described as an effort to “systematically leverage [governmental] power over federal contractors to get companies to preserve domestic jobs” is in direct conflict with the provisions of many existing FTAs which are designed to prohibit this kind of protectionism to help ensure a level playing field for all signatory nations.
- **Japan Inc Warns of Global Trade Contraction Under Trump Presidency; (Reuters Poll; 12/7/16)** – This article reports on the results of a recent poll of 250 Japanese company managers regarding their views on what a Trump presidency will mean for US-Japanese trade:

- Most respondents believe that global trade will decrease in the medium-term;
 - Many respondents commented that a reduced American economic presence will result in increased Chinese economic influence;
 - The survey results indicated significant concern regarding the risk that Trump’s trade policies pose to Japan’s rather fragile economic recovery;
 - Approximately 75% of the companies that responded indicated that they anticipated no significant change in their US investment plans; and
 - Though some uncertainty prevails about President-Elect Trump’s unpredictability, many respondents believe that Trump will “*adopt business-friendly steps such as infrastructure investment, tax cuts and deregulation*”.
- **EU official hopeful for trade deal under Trump presidency; (Washington Post; 12/7/16)** – This article reports on the comments of David O’Sullivan, EU Ambassador to the US, who hopes that President-Elect Trump will continue the negotiations for the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Ambassador O’Sullivan also stated that despite President-Elect Trump’s negative statements about free trade agreements, his views on the TTIP are not specifically known and Ambassador O’Sullivan believes that a mutually agreeable FTA could be negotiated in “*a year or two*”.
 - **Japan Ratifies Pacific Trade Pact That Trump Plans to Drop; (N.Y. Times; 12/9/16)** – This article reports that at the urging of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the Japanese Parliament recently ratified the TPP. This ratification occurred despite the strong opposition of President-Elect Trump who has stated his intention to withdraw from the TPP upon taking office. If the US withdraws from the TPP, the agreement will never be implemented in that the TPP provisions require that 85% of the group of TPP nation’s collective GDP must be a part of the TPP for it to take effect and the US comprises 60% of that total.
 - **How Trump-era trade policy threatens to send up the prices you see on store shelves; (Washington Post; 12/9/16)** – This article discusses the possible ramifications of President-Elect Trumps’ stated trade policy which includes the introduction of new and comparatively high tariffs on imported goods, pulling out of existing FTAs like NAFTA and punishing US companies who move their businesses out of the country. The article reports that at the current time, certain tariffs are relatively high such as tariffs on apparel can be as high as 32% and over 67% for footwear. Prominent retailers in this country are already feeling “choked” by these tariffs and lament the possibility of more and even higher tariffs which would significantly impact the retail market with higher prices. Conversely, major domestic retailers hold that adoption of the TPP would result in a significant increase in buying power for consumers and lower prices for many retail goods. The article also points out that pulling out of NAFTA will be complicated in that many laws and regulations have been developed to implement and administer the agreement and that US membership in the WTO significantly limits the tariffs that can be established.

- **Trump’s pick for secretary of state argued against one of the president-elect’s biggest promises; (Washington Post; 12/13/16)** – This article focuses on the previous stance held by Rex Tillerson, President-Elect Trumps’ nominee for Secretary of State, regarding the TPP and other previous FTAs. The article reviews Tillerson’s previously avid support for the TPP. As CEO for ExxonMobil, in 2013, Tillerson argued strongly for passage of the TPP by maintaining that the agreement would help to ensure the open markets necessary for the US and Asian countries to significantly grow their economies. Tillerson further stated that, “*We must embrace the free flow of energy, capital and human talent across oceans and borders.*” The article also cites the previous support for the TPP from other of Trump’s high level nominees including Wilbur Ross (Commerce Secretary), Terry Branstad (Ambassador to China), and Vice President-Elect Mike Pence.
- **Asian Envoys Urge Trump to Reconsider on TPP Trade Pact; (N.Y. Times; 12/13/16)** – This article reports that Ambassadors from three TPP countries (Australia, South Korea and Singapore) have urged President-Elect Trump to reconsider his opposition to the TPP. Australian Ambassador Joe Hockey stated the following. “*America has to engage with Asia if it is going to be great [because that’s where most global economic growth is happening] ... The fact that the U.S. was very involved in leadership of it (TPP) then could not deliver and has chosen not now to deliver is hugely damaging to the United States’ reputation in Asia*”. Ambassador Hockey also said that Australia and other TPP countries is now considering the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) sponsored by China as an alternative to the TPP.
- **Japan, EU in Talks Seeking Free-Trade Deal by Year’s End; (N.Y. Times; 12/14/16)** – This article reports that Japan and the EU are attempting to finalize negotiations on a far-reaching FTA before the end of 2016. Possible features of such an agreement include the following:
 - Japan is seeking cuts in EU tariffs on autos, auto parts and electronics;
 - Japan also wants a reduction in red tape for Japanese businesses doing business in the EU;
 - The EU wants Japan to end certain agricultural tariffs and to end non-tariff barriers to auto imports;
 - The EU would also favor an easier process for bidding on public construction and procurement contracts.
- **After Campaigning Against Free Trade Deals, Donald Trump May Make a Corporate Free Trade Lobbyists (sic) His Trade Negotiator; (International Business Times; 12/16/16)** – This article reports that President-Elect Trump is giving serious consideration to appointing Wayne Berman as the next United States Trade Representative. This article notes that Mr. Berman is a prominent advocate for FTAs and that he represented Chevron as a lobbyist who advocated strongly for the adoption of the recent 2010 FTA between the US and South Korea- an agreement that Donald trump strongly opposed when it was being considered for ratification.

- ***A Plan B for the TPP trade pact; (Bangkok Post; 12/20/16)*** – This opinion piece, authored by Daniel Bob, Senior Fellow and Director of Programs at Sasakawa USA, holds that a bilateral FTA between the US and Japan may be the best free trade alternative to the TPP, should President-Elect Trump succeed in his effort to keep the US out of the TPP. Mr. Bob maintains that such a bilateral agreement would:
 - Support economic growth and job creation in both countries;
 - Reinforce US and Japanese economic leadership in Asia;
 - Enhance regional integration; and
 - Provide a viable alternative to the Chinese mercantile approach to trade and the current Chinese zero-sum perspective of international affairs.

- ***Japan’s Trump Dilemma; (Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis; 12/20/16)*** – This policy perspective was authored by Titli Basu, the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis, and discusses at length the strategic and economic consequences for Japan if the US does not join the TPP and pulls back on its strategic commitments to Japan and other Asian nations. These possible consequences include the following:
 - The TPP is regarded as the centerpiece to Japanese Prime Minister Abe’s economic and strategic plan; the TPP is likely to increase Japan’s growth rate by 2.7% annually with annual exports increasing by an estimated \$23.2 billion;
 - A failure to ratify the TPP will result in the loss of \$5.3 billion in Japanese imports from 35 different US companies; these imports from the US are likely to be replaced by Chinese products;
 - A failure to ratify the TPP will also cause Japan to look more favorably, but reluctantly, upon the RCEP which includes China but excludes the US. The RCEP also:
 - Lacks the “gold standards” of the TPP in protecting intellectual property rights; and
 - Does not require state-owned enterprises to follow common commercial practices.
 - Absent the TPP, Japan may pursue the possibility of negotiating a bilateral FTA with the US- a position seemingly favored by the incoming Trump administration;
 - The apparent demise of the TPP is also pushing Japan towards the finalization of a major FTA with the EU- a deal that is anticipated being completed sometime in 2017

- ***RCEP won’t replace TPP, but can strengthen trade; (Global Times; 12/21/16)*** – This opinion piece, authored by Bi Jing, holds that the apparent demise of the TPP may lead the TPP signatories (other than the US) to finalize negotiations for the RCEP in 2017. However, the author is quick to caution that the RCEP will not be able to fully replace or supplant the TPP for the following reasons:
 - The RCEP reflects “*an action in progress*” whereas the TPP can be described as “*the finished action*”;
 - The TPP builds upon the current trade rules of the WTO and is widely regarded as the new standard for FTAs- even if it is never implemented;

- In earlier anticipation of eventual TPP approval, many TPP signatories have worked to change their trade policies and regulations to conform with the agreement; and
- The TPP is much more comprehensive than the RCEP in its coverage of different aspects of trade policy such as labor and environmental standards.

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Articles from June, July and August 2016

After TISA Ministerial, Focus Is On What Provisions Get Into Final Deal; (Inside U.S. Trade, 6/17/16)- This article reports on the latest developments in the ongoing negotiations for the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA). In particular, negotiators are in the process of deciding which “rules and disciplines” will be accepted in the final agreement. The article emphasizes that as of when the article was written that no final decisions have been made. The topics being discussed include:

- Revised market access offers; the U.S. is under some pressure to its offer on telecommunications services;
- The extent to which members can use “policy space exemptions on new services”; i.e. reserving the right to impose new regulations as needed;
- Pertaining to the annex on electronic communications, data flow and data privacy issues have yet to be resolved; and
- Resolving the U.S. sponsored request for an “most-favored nation forward provision”; i.e. which would “obligate countries to automatically extend to TISA participants any trade concessions they have made to other trading partners in a separate bilateral or regional deal”

According to the article, the next TISA round of negotiations was scheduled for the first week in July with subsequent negotiations scheduled for September and November with a possible third opportunity in December.

Administration Drafts TPP Implementing Bill In Preparation Of Potential Lame-Duck Vote; (Inside U.S. Trade; 6/20/16) – This article reports that, under the requirements of the recently passed fast-track legislation, the Obama administration is developing legislation to implement the TPP. The fast track legislation requires the following documents must be submitted to Congress as part of the implementing legislation:

- Copy of the final legal text of the TPP agreement;
- Draft statement of administrative actions required to implement the TPP; and
- A plan for implementing and enforcing the TPP which must be submitted 30 days prior to the submission of the implementing legislation.

The article also reports that the TPP is not likely to be voted on by Congress until a lame-duck session which will be held after the November elections.

Maine Congressional Delegation Applauds the Consideration of Critical Findings that Conclude the Lobster Would Not Be Invasive to Europe; (Press Release from Maine Congressional Delegation; 6/22/16) – This recent press release from all 4 members of Maine’s Congressional delegation, states that researchers from the EU have concluded that there is no credible scientific evidence that North American lobsters can be considered as an invasive species for EU member nations.

‘A midsummer night’s nightmare’ for European trade; (Politico; 6/26/16)- This article reports that the United Kingdom’s pending exit from the EU is likely to make trade negotiations much more difficult for the TTIP. The status of the United Kingdom as a long standing political and economic ally of the U.S. complicates current trade negotiations and, at the present time, the ultimate impact of the U.K. exit from the EU cannot be accurately determined.

UK Vote To Exit Casts Doubt Over TTIP Despite Froman, Malmstrom Reassurances; (insidetrade.com; 6/27/16)- This article reiterates the conclusions of the previous article regarding the effects of the U.K.’s exit from the EU on trade negotiations for the TTIP.

International Trade Implications of Brexit – What Companies Should Do Now; (crowell.com; 6/27/16) – This article discusses the trade implications of the U.K.’s exit from the EU and suggests several courses of action for affected companies:

- Although the exit from the EU is not immediate, companies should start planning for the change in trade circumstances as soon as possible;
- After exiting the EU, the U.K. will have to develop its own tariff schedule to remain a member of the WTO. Companies are advised to evaluate any of these tariff changes carefully;
- Withdrawing from the EU will cause the U.K. to develop new trade agreements and relationships that had been previously covered through membership in the EU;
- The topic of export controls is likely to be adversely affected by the U.K.’s exit from the EU; the U.K. has been a prominent supporter of strong export controls within the EU and its exit is likely to impede efforts towards the harmonization of greater export control rules; and
- The status of economic sanctions is likely to become much more complicated after the U.K. exit from the EU.

500,000 petitions to Congress demand rejection of TPP; (Friends of the Earth; 6/29/16) – This press release reports that several environmental advocacy organizations have submitted more than 500,000 petitions to Congress opposing approval of the TPP.

Malmström says EU-US trade talks can survive Brexit; (Eur.Activ.com/Reuters; 6/30/16)- This news article reports that EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom has stated that the U.K.’s impending exit from the EU will not derail current plans to complete as much of the TTIP negotiations as possible before President Obama leaves office in January of 2017.

U.S. Shoemakers, Importers Could Clash Over TTIP Footwear Provisions; (insidetrade.com; 7/11/16)- This article reports on a clash between U.S. footwear manufacturers and a coalition of U.S. and EU footwear distributors and retailers regarding the possible elimination of tariffs and an increased flexibility of “rules of origin”. The U.S. footwear manufacturing contingent opposes the elimination of applicable tariffs by claiming that non-TTIP members such as Vietnam would take advantage of these rules to fraudulently ship footwear to EU nations without the imposition of tariffs that would be imposed by the TPP.

Selling Off the Farm: Corporate Meat's Takeover Through TTIP; (Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy; 7/11/16)- This lengthy paper, co-authored by CTPC member Sharon Anglin Treat, maintains that proposed trade rules in the TTIP would have the following effects:

- The TTIP is likely to imperil current efforts in both the US and the EU to build “ *a healthier, more compassionate and more sustainable food system*” ;
- Through the harmonization of meat marketing standards, the TTIP would result in the expansion of worldwide factory farming;
- The proposed elimination of all agricultural tariffs would favor and result in cheaper agricultural production methods thus imperiling smaller family-owned farms and sustainable farming practices; and
- The proposed harmonization of agricultural rules will impede existing efforts to address climate change, animal welfare and the use of GMOs in agricultural products.

Senators: Politics again gives Malaysia a pass on human trafficking rating; (Politico Pro; 7/12/16) – This article reports on the bipartisan criticism made by U.S. Senators who claim that a recent State Department decision to give Malaysia a “mid-level” rating with regards to human trafficking is politically motivated and is intended to allow Malaysia to remain as a member of the yet-to-be approved TPP.

Lange: TTIP Deal In 2016 Is ‘Unrealistic’ Because U.S. Won’t Move On EU Priorities; (Inside US Trade; 7/12/16) – This article reports that Bernd Lange, Chairman of the European Parliament’s International Trade Committee, has expressed skepticism that the TTIP can be finalized in 2016 for the following reasons:

- Negative stands on current trade agreements by the two major US presidential nominees;
- Uncertainty on whether the US Congress will approve the TPP; and
- Trade negotiators are running out of time necessary to conclude the TTIP by the end of 2016.

EU-US negotiators falter to make decisive progress on TTIP, destabilised by Brexit; (EurActiv.com; 7/15/16) – This news article reports that US and EU negotiators have cited significant trade issues that have yet to be resolved in the TTIP negotiations and that resolution of these issues is impeded by the U.K.’s impending exit from the EU. The article further reports that progress has been made regarding tariff elimination and regulatory cooperation but the sides have not yet resolved trade issues surrounding greater access to “*public sector tenders*”.

The TPP implementing legislation conflicts with TPA on state sovereignty; (e-mail exchange; 8/15/16)- This recent e-mail from Matthew Porterfield, Deputy Director and Adjunct Professor at the Harrison Institute for Public Law, Georgetown University Law Center, to several individuals including CTPC member Sharon Anglin Treat, asserts that the implementing legislation for the TPP is at odds with the requirements of the fast-track legislation (TPA) passed by Congress in the summer of 2015. More specifically, Professor Porterfield alleges that the TPA legislation stipulates that the US government would not be able to preempt state or local law that conflicts with provisions of the TPP. Professor Porterfield points out that the implementing TPP legislation retains the federal government's ability to preempt state and local laws that are in conflict with the TPP.

Obama set for 'full-fledged' TPP push; (msn.com; 8/17/16) – This news article reports that President Obama is preparing “*a full-fledged, full-throated effort*” to have Congress approve the TPP in a lame duck session of Congress to be held after the November elections.

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Articles from May and June and earlier in 2016

Business Growth Foundation calls for a freeze on TTIP negotiations in light of newly commissioned YouGov research highlighting SME concerns; (*Business Growth Foundation, 1/1/16*) – This article reports on the recent survey results conducted with British Small-Medium Enterprises (SME) regarding their attitudes towards the TTIP:

- Only 14% feel the TTIP (and similar deals) will benefit their own SME.
- Only 25% of SMEs believe the TTIP will benefit UK SMEs generally.
- Almost half of SMEs feel the TTIP and similar deals will benefit larger (non SME) companies.
- Nearly 2/3rds of SMEs felt they were not informed about international trade deals including TTIP.
- 51% said they wanted more information from UK Government and political figures about TTIP and similar trade deals.
- Over half of respondents felt that the interests of UK SMEs were not sufficiently considered when international trade deals that affect them are agreed.

EU TTIP Stocktaking in September to Determine if End Phase Kicks Off; (*Daily News 5/24/16*)- This article reports that the European Commission plans to meet in late September to determine whether TTIP negotiations have proceeded to a point which would justify moving towards a final deal with the US.

The Trans-Pacific Shell Game; (*Global Development and Environment Institute at Tufts University, 6/1/16*)- This article maintains that benefits from the TPP will accrue primarily to large corporations and not to ordinary citizens. The article criticizes a recent study from the Peterson Institute of International Economics which touts the economic benefits of the TPP by alleging that the study's results are predicated on faulty assumptions regarding GDP.

Stabenow Says Getting TPP Right Trumps Obama Legacy, McConnell Cool to Lame-Duck Vote; (*Daily News, 6/3/16*)- This news article reports that US Senator Debbie Stabenow (D, MI) is currently opposed to the TPP because of its failure to adequately address the issue of currency manipulation, particularly with regards to artificially low prices for imported Japanese motor vehicles. In addition, the article reports that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R, KY) favors passage of the TPP but believes that the best timing for TPP approval would be a vote in a future session of Congress, thereby avoiding near certain defeat in a lame-duck session of the current Congress.

USITC Report on the TPP's Economic Effects Projects Significant Losses; (*Citizen.org, 5/23/16*) – This article refers to recent data released from the US International Trade Commission which shows that the TPP would result in:

- A \$23.8 billion loss in the US manufacturing trade balance is estimated to be 5 times higher than projected gains in certain agricultural prices; and
- The predicted relatively small gains in US economic growth by 2032 means that the US economy would hardly be affected by the TPP.

TPP mired as Congress returns; (Politico, 6/6/16) – This article further reports on the current status of the TPP in Congress by concluding that there is no indication that Congress plans to take up the TPP for a vote anytime this summer. In addition, the article reports that the Obama administration has yet to submit to Congress a required draft statement on how the TPP is to be implemented.

U.S. House shoots down move to strip athletic shoe funding from defense budget; (Kennebec Journal, 6/16/16)- This news article reports that the House of Representatives has defeated an amendment to the defense budget which would have removed a requirement that the Department of Defense would be required to purchase US manufactured athletic footwear for members of the armed forces. This development is considered to be favorable by New Balance which manufactures footwear in 3 Maine factories. The effort to retain the requirement was led by Representative Bruce Poliquin and other members of the Maine congressional delegation.

Occupied Territory; (The New Yorker, 6/20/16) – This document consists of a brief quotation from US Senator Susan Collins (R, ME) indicating her current views on how free trade agreements appear to be regarded by many Maine citizens.

Article notes

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

Articles from April and May 2016 and earlier dates

Letter from Members of Maine's Congressional Delegation to Obama Administration

Regarding EU Lobster Issue; (3/28/16)- This letter, signed by Senators Collins and King and Congresspersons Pingree and Poliquin, addresses their concerns regarding the possible banning by the EU of the importation of Maine lobsters. (The Obama administration response, dated 4/12/16, is discussed later in this summary.)

TPP Dumping on U.S. Dairy Farmers; (Institute of Trade & Agriculture Policy, 4/7/16)- This article discusses the current situation wherein the proposed TPP will have the effect of lowering dairy prices in an era of already low dairy prices. The article maintains that the low prices emanating from the TPP will undercut US dairy production by encouraging the importation of even less expensive dairy products from other TPP nations such as New Zealand.

Point: We Had Trade Before We Had NAFTA and Other Trade Deals; (Inside Sources, 4/8/16) – The author of this opinion piece, Dean Baker, suggests that international trade has taken place successfully without the recent FTAs such as NAFTA. He also argues that FTAs structured in the manner of NAFTA serve to benefit large corporations to the distinct disadvantage of average workers.

Pro-TPP Op-Eds Remarkably Similar to Drafts by Foreign Government Lobbyists; (The Intercept, 4/10/16) – This article points out the significant similarities between drafts supporting the TPP that were prepared by publicists employed by the Japanese government and actual Op-Ed columns that recently ran in various California newspapers.

Letter from US Department of State in response to letter from Maine's Congressional Delegation Regarding EU Lobster Issue; (U.S. Department of State, 4/12/16) – This letter acknowledges receipt of the 3/28/16 letter from Maine's Congressional Delegation regarding their concern on the possible banning by the EU of the importation of Maine lobsters. The letter seeks to assure Maine's delegation that the Obama administration is actively working to ensure that the EU does not ban the importation of Maine lobsters.

New Balance accuses Pentagon of renegeing on slipper deal; (Boston Globe, 4/12/16)- This article reports on the allegations from New Balance that the Pentagon has renegeed on a promise to give New Balance a legitimate chance to compete for a sizable contract to supply the military with specially designed athletic footwear. New Balance also claims that the Pentagon's promise was predicated on a pledge from New Balance not to publically oppose the TPP for the past year.

More than 50 health, religious and labor groups to reject TPP trade deal; (Washington Post, 4/12/16)- This article reports that more than 50 prominent health, religious and labor groups recently sent a letter to members of Congress urging rejection of the TPP.

TTIP: EU exporters worry about US harmonization issues; (EU Observer, 4/12/16)- This article reports that a number of prominent EU exporters are hoping that the TTIP will address the need to harmonize testing and regulatory standards. These exporters are concerned that due to the high degree to which these issues are determined at the local, and not federal, level in the US that the harmonization issue will not be adequately addressed by the TTIP.

160 + Farm and Food Groups Ask Congress to Reject TPP, Stand Up for Independent Farmers and Ranchers; (Food & Water Watch, 4/27/16)- This article reports that 161 farm and food organizations have sent a letter to members of Congress urging that the TPP be rejected. These groups maintain that the TPP will have the effect of undermining current US agriculture prices with lower imported food costs thereby imperiling many local farms- both large and small.

BARCELONA: the pan European meeting of TTIP, CETA and TISA-free zones is the first steps towards a big municipal movement ; (ttip-free-zones.eu; 4/29/16) – This article reports on the recent meeting of numerous European mayors and members of various social and economic organization in Barcelona. The purpose of this meeting was to coalesce support for establishing and maintaining TTIP-free (and other FTA) zones throughout Europe.

Leaked TTIP text shows U.S. negotiators push to lower food safety standards, farmer protections; (Institute for Trade & Agriculture Policy, 5/2/16) – This article reports on the contents of leaked TTIP negotiating text which reveals that U.S. negotiators are pushing for lower food safety standards and reduced protections for farmers.

Greenpeace Leaks U.S.-E.U. Trade Deal Documents; (New York Times, 5/2/16)- This article also reports on the recent leak of TTIP negotiating text which allegedly loosen environmental and consumer protection provisions.

Selling the Trans-Atlantic Trade Deal; (New York Times, 5/2/16)- Without taking a specific stand on whether the TTIP should be approved or not, this editorial suggests that future FTAs be negotiated in a much more inclusive and transparent process.

McConnell Casts Serious Doubt Over TPP Lame-Duck Vote, Says Deal Will Hold For Next President; (Inside US Trade; 5/5/16) – This article reports that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has stated that he does not believe that the TPP will be approved by Congress in a lame-duck session after the November elections. Senator McConnell also stated that he believes that the agreement could be approved at a later date by a new session of Congress.

Marauding American Lobsters Find Themselves in Hot Water; (Wall Street Journal, 5/5/16)- This article reports on the efforts of the Swedish government to persuade the EU to ban the continued importation of North American lobsters. The Swedish government argues that North American lobsters represent an invasive species which imperil the existing European species of lobster.

New GTW Researcher Keeping an Eye on Trade; (Global Trade Watch, 5/13/16)- This article takes the form of an open letter from a new Senior Researcher at Global Trade Watch, Justin

Fisk. Mr. Fisk comments on the current model used by the United States International Trade Commission to evaluate the TPP and asserts that the model often uses incorrect and inaccurate assumptions as the basis for its conclusions.

White House Spokesman: TPP Vote Might Still Happen Before a Lam Duck Session; (Inside US Trade, 5/20/16) – This article reports that White House spokesman Josh Earnest stated that he believes that Congress could possibly vote on the TPP prior to a lame-duck session in November. Mr. Earnest’s assertion was somewhat disputed by a statement from USTR Michael Froman who stated that such a vote would not be possible.