



Debates and activities in National Parliaments on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the EU and the US

On 31 August 2015, the Slovenian National Assembly, through the ECPRD network, asked all its counterparts in EU Member States about the activities and discussions that each of them had organised as far as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement (TTIP) was concerned (request n° 2923). The first question referred namely to the degree of involvement of specific committees or working bodies in each Chamber while the second asked if the chamber had discussed the agreement currently under negotiations also at a plenary session. With the present Spotlight we offer a "depiction" of the situation as it emerges from the replies of the 31 Chambers from 23 Member States. The request aimed at gathering very factual information, which we summarize here, and did not inquire about political content nor about the possible future role of National Parliaments in the conclusion and ratification of the TTIP whose legal base is still unclear.

State/Chamber	Discussion by Committees and other bodies	Debate in Plenary
Austria <i>Nationalrat</i>	EU main Committee; the Standing subcommittee of the EU Committee adopted two binding opinions to the Government; the Constitutional Comm. discussed the idea of holding a referendum on negotiations/ratification; the comm. on Petitions and Citizens Initiatives discussed TTIP with NGOs. Members of the National Council met US-negotiator Christina Sevilla.	TTIP was discussed 4 times at plenary sessions
Austria <i>Bundesrat</i>	The EU Committee discussed TTIP twice and adopted an opinion to the government and a Communication to the European Commission. Members of both Chambers met Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and Ignacio Garcia Bercero, DG Trade.	NO
Belgium <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>	The Foreign Affairs Committee discussed TTIP.	NO
Belgium <i>Sénat</i>	The Federal Advisory Committee on EU Affairs, discussed TTIP mostly within the framework of the briefings and debriefings with the Prime Minister before and after each European Council. A specific meeting dedicated to this topic was also organised within the framework of the Federal Advisory Committee on EU Affairs with commissioner Malmström.	NO
Croatia <i>Hrvatski Sabor</i>	The European Affairs Committee discussed TTIP twice with representatives of the European Commission, the Croatian Government, the European Parliament and relevant stakeholders from the business sector and civil society. The Committee on the Economy discussed TTIP in connection with the interpellation on the work of the Government.	No specific discussion, it has been discussed only in relation with the work of the Government.
Czech Republic	Committee on EU Affairs discussed TTIP during the	TTIP was discussed

<i>Senat</i>	debate on the March 2015 European Council.	during the debate on March 2015 European Council
Denmark <i>Folketinget</i>	The Business, Growth and Export Committee The European Affairs Committee	The Plenary debated TTIP twice and adopted a resolution.
Estonia <i>Riigikogu</i>	TTIP was discussed during a hearing of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and in the framework of April and May 2015 debate of the ministers of trade of EU countries (Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Committees).	NO
Finland <i>Eduskunta</i>	TTIP was discussed by the Grand Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Finance Committee, the Agriculture and Forestry Committee, the Commerce Committee, the Employment and Equality Committee and the Environment Committee	TTIP was discussed at the plenary session on 19th March 2014
France <i>Assemblée Nationale</i>	The Economic Affairs Committee discussed the TTIP. A Working group has been established composed by members of the Economic Affairs Committee, the European Affairs Committee and the Cultural Affairs Committee. On 17 June the EU Affairs Committee organized an inter-parliamentary meeting about the EU trade external policies and the negotiations with the USA, Canada and in the WTO's frame.	
France <i>Sénat</i>	The Sénat set up a working group of members of the EU Affairs Committee and of the Economic Affairs Committee that will focus on different aspect of the TTIP.	
Germany <i>Bundesrat</i>	TTIP was discussed by the EU Affairs Committee	YES
Germany <i>Bundestag</i>	TTIP has been subject of 117 interpellations (oral or written parliamentary questions, minor and major interpellations) to the Federal Government and of 14 motions. All motions were referred to the appropriate committees: Committee on Economic Affairs and Energy, Committee on the Affairs of the European Union; Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development; Committee on the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety; Committee on Health; Committee on Labour and Social Affairs; Committee on Food and Agriculture; Finance Committee; Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection; Committee on Foreign Affairs; Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs	The actual TTIP agreement did not appear on the agenda but the motions on the subject of the TTIP were also discussed in the plenary. The TTIP has also debated in the framework of five policy statements by the Federal Government.
Greece <i>Vouli ton Ellinon</i>	NO	NO
Hungary <i>Országgyűlés</i>	The Committee on Economy, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on EU and the Committee on National Cohesion held a joint sitting on the TTIP hearing the Foreign Minister and partly the TTIP was mentioned on 20. September 2014.	TTIP was discussed in a debate in plenary on 26 February 2015.
Ireland <i>Houses of the Oireachtas</i>	The Joint Committee on EU Affairs discussed TTIP with Commissioner Cecilia Malmström on 27 March 2015 and with other stakeholders on 11 June 2015.	NO
Italy	The Committee on Agriculture is conducting a fact-	TTIP has been

<i>Camera dei Deputati</i>	finding inquiry on the impact of TTIP on the Italian food and agriculture system. The Committee on economic activities discussed TTIP on 19 June 2014. Joint hearing by the committees on economic activities, on Agriculture and on EU Policies about the developments of the TTIP. negotiations.	discussed several times in plenary and has been the object of several resolutions.
Italy <i>Senato della Repubblica</i>	The EU Affairs Committee and the Committee on Agriculture discussed the TTIP	NO
Latvia <i>Saeima</i>	TTIP was discussed both in the European Affairs Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee.	NO
Luxembourg <i>Chambre des Députés</i>	TTIP was discussed in the Committee for Foreign Affairs, European Affairs, Defence, Cooperation and Immigration which also organised a hearing on the 11th July 2014. The matter was also raised during the visit of Commissioner Malmström on 26 February 2015..	
Netherlands <i>Eerste Kamer</i>	The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Development Cooperation discussed TTIP	During the plenary sessions of April 14, 2015 and May 19, 2015 TTIP was discussed during the annual plenary debate on the government's policy for Europe.
Netherlands <i>Tweede Kamer</i>	TTIP has been discussed by the Committee on Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation and the Committee on European Affairs	NO
Poland <i>Sejm</i>	The TTIP was discussed by -the European Union Affairs Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Innovation and New Technologies Committee, the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, the Economic Committee, the Ad hoc Subcommittee for the EU's trade agreements with third countries.	The TTIP was discussed in different debates 6 times.
Poland <i>Senat</i>	The National Economy Committee and the EY Affairs Committee, held a common sitting on the topic: “The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) – threat or opportunity for Poland”. In the discussion were also present three MEPs, experts and representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development, academics, representatives of state institutions and NGOs.	NO
Portugal <i>Assembleia da Republica</i>	The TTIP has been discussed in the European Affairs Committee, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Portuguese Communities and the Committee on Economics and Public Works.	The Assembly voted against 2 resolutions for the rejection of the agreement.
Slovakia <i>Národná rada</i>	TTIP and the positions of the Slovak Republic were discussed several times by the Committee on European Affairs	NO
Slovenia <i>Državni zbor</i>	The agreement and its likely effects were jointly discussed by the Committee on the Economy and the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Food. The Agreement and the positions of Slovenia were also discussed by the Committee on EU Affairs.	NO
Spain <i>Congreso de los</i>	The agreement has been discussed by the Committee	NO

<i>Diputados</i>	on Economy and Competitiveness and by the Joint Senate-Congress Committee for the European Union.	
Spain <i>Senado</i>	The agreement has been discussed by the Joint Senate-Congress Committee for the European Union.	NO
Sweden <i>Riksdag</i>	On April 23 2014, the Committee on Trade and Industry in cooperation with the Committee on Foreign Affairs held an hearing on the TTIP.	There was no specific debate on TTIP but the topic was raised several times in debates over six interpellations in 2014 and 2015.. .
UK <i>House of Commons</i>	The European Scrutiny Committee questioned Lord Livingston, the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, on TTIP, on 11 June 2014 and on 26 February 2015.	YES
UK <i>House of Lords</i>	The EU Affairs Committee discussed TTIP on 13 May 2014, the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee on 25 March 2015.	YES

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