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ETUC calls for greater transparency in EU-US negotiations during EP hearing

Brussels, 15/10/2013

Speaking during the EP's international trade committee's hearing on the regulatory dimension of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) yesterday, Judith Kirton-Darling (ETUC Confederal Secretary) called for greater transparency in how EU and US trade negotiators are proposing to bring together our very different regulatory systems.

"The lack of transparency in the TTIP negotiations, despite regular leakages of information in the press, only increases suspicion and will not create the climate needed to get social acceptance of the final agreement. Formal social stakeholder engagement is essential", she emphasised to MEPs. "The ETUC has been clear from the outset that any resulting TTIP agreement must be a gold standard agreement in social and environmental terms, ensuring the agreement or subsequent structures does not reduce existing standards or impinge on public authorities' right to regulate", she recalled.

She urged for caution in the TTIP negotiations, stressing that mutual recognition of regulations through a trade agreement would not provide a silver bullet to creating jobs and growth.

The ETUC's concerns were reiterated by all MEPs who spoke in the subsequent debate, while the Commission promised to consider ways of ensuring more transparency and participation.

Her intervention is available here:

http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/Speech_given_by_Judith_Kirton-Darling.pdf

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) exists to speak with a single voice, on behalf of the common interests of workers, at European level. Founded in 1973, it now represents 85 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 10 industry-based federations. The ETUC is also on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#).

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