



TTIP: GOOD NEWS
FROM THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT



ORGANIC REGULATION
PROPOSAL: FOOD
IMPORTED FROM THIRD
COUNTRIES



WORLD HEALTH DAY
"FROM FARM TO PLATE,
MAKE FOOD SAFE"



DOES THE EU ALLOW
MORE FLEXIBLE
APPROACH TOWARDS
GMOS?

SAFE Safe Food
Advocacy Europe
Striving for Safer Food for European Consumers

NEWSLETTER

Dear Members,

In our April Newsletter we share with you latest news and developments from TTIP, the Organic Regulation Proposal, the World Health Day and the new proposal on GM food and feed.

On the last pages you'll find again an overview of EU projects.

Enjoy reading.

We are looking forward to receive your feedback.

Yours,

Floriana Cimmarusti
Secretary General of SAFE

TTIP: Good News from the European Parliament

SAFE is following attentively the Trade and Investment Partnership Negotiations (TTIP) between the European Union and the USA (SAFE Flash February 2015). Furthermore, SAFE is actively participating at the stakeholder meetings organized by the European Commission Directorate General for Trade in Brussels. During those meetings, stakeholders can present their views on different aspects of the TTIP negotiations and EU chief negotiator (Director of DG Trade



Ignacio Garcia Berrero) and USA Chief negotiator (Dan Mullaney, Assistant US Trade Representative at the Office of the United States Trade Representative) brief on the status of the negotiations as well as try to answer questions.

The 9th round of the TTIP negotiations will take place in New York from the 20th to the 24th of April and stakeholders are invited on the 23rd of April to participate to a forum in the USA. During this meeting stakeholders will deliver presentations and will be updated by the chief negotiators concerning the status of the negotiations. SAFE has been invited although we will not be able to be present at the meeting. However, SAFE will receive information about the outcomes of this important forum in New York.

On April 14 the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee in the European Parliament voted in favor of an opinion to exclude from the upcoming EU-USA free trade agreement the following five issues: public health services, Genetically Modified Organisms, the use of hormones in the bovine sector, chemical legislation Reach and cloning techniques. The Rapporteur for this opinion is MEP **Bart Staes** (Greens) who stresses for the correct application of the precautionary principle as provided in the EU legislation system while the USA system is based on a 'risk assessment' approach linked to a cost benefit analysis. The EU precautionary principle is much better for consumers. The risk is that the TTIP negotiations could reduce the EU food safety standards to a much lower level to reach harmonization between the different regulations.

SAFE really welcomes the vote of the ENVI Committee for the following concerns:

GMO. More than 70% of the US processed food on sale in the supermarket contains GMO's and there is no binding labelling obligation. On the contrary, in the EU all food products containing GMO must be indicated on the labelling. The TTIP is looking for 'mutual recognition' on American food products with GMO sold in the EU. This issue could be very dangerous for the EU consumer's health.

Hormones. In the US non-therapeutic use of antibiotics and hormones for animal growth are not prohibited. On the contrary, in the EU this is not permitted although there are some exceptions. The use of hormones in the bovine sector could cause serious health problems to consumers and therefore it should not be part of TTIP negotiations.

Cloning. In the USA the cloning technique is authorized for farming purposes and the food from animal clones is placed on the market. In the EU there are two Directives Proposals concerning the ban of cloning animals for farming purposes and the prohibition on the market of food from animal clones. The cloning should not be part of TTIP negotiations as it could only negatively influence the EU discussion concerning the Directive Proposals on animal cloning which are under discussion in the European Parliament (more detail on SAFE Newsletter of March and April SAFE Flash).

The EU REACH Regulation concerns the authorization or restriction of chemicals in all Member States. Several environmental NGOs fear about the possible negative effects of including chemicals related disciplines in the TTIP negotiations. Chemical regulations in the EU is tighter and US chemical companies consider REACH Regulation the biggest trade barrier.

From the 19th to May 21, the European Parliament should vote on a TTIP Resolution.

Consumer's health should not be negotiable to reduce trade barriers between the EU and the USA and just to improve business of large multinational companies. EU standards on food safety should not be decreased within the final text of the TTIP negotiations, unless consumers will pay a too high price for the EU signature on this extensive and large business agreement.

More info at the [European Parliament's website](#)