



Green Law Group against TTIP's "Regulatory Cooperation"

[Brussels, May 14, 2015] – Justice & Environment, the leading green law NGO network in the EU expresses its deep concerns regarding the currently leaked text of the EU – US Trade Agreement commonly known as TTIP.

J&E is most concerned with proposals regarding "regulatory cooperation", i.e. a mechanism that enables a party to raise its concerns, objections, etc. against laws of the other. This in fact will mean that the United States will be able to criticize domestic legislation in any of the EU Member States in case it affects international trade.

A leaked draft of the European Commission's proposal for regulatory cooperation dated 26 March extends the scope of future possible EU – US negotiations to cover non-central national laws.

Non-central laws are laws of the Member States that are genuine pieces of domestic legislation, i.e. their purpose is not to transpose EU directives. If the leaked text will be adopted in the TTIP, the US would thus have the power to question EU countries' national laws and regulatory plans. This in turn would create another hurdle for national governments trying to create laws that benefit the public interest (e.g. environmental or health protection) which might hurt some private interests.

Siim Vahtrus, Chairman of Justice and Environment, commented the leaked text:

"This option of the contracting parties goes clearly against national sovereignty. And while Member States have transferred part of their sovereignty to the EU, they certainly did not do it so it would be traded away with the US."

J&E, operating in 12 EU countries, applies EU law and domestic environmental law in the Member States and in relation to EU institutions on a daily basis. If this trade agreement will be concluded as planned now, environmental activists may expect any time that laws that protect the common interest now can fall victim of trade deals between the two superpowers of the world.

"We should not accept the voices that are trying to calm down opposition against the leaked proposal. There is a real danger that once adopted, the TTIP will deeply influence our lives and not in a good way." – warned the J&E Chairman, adding that J&E will join the NGO community and protest against the TTIP, calling attention to its potential negative impacts.

Notes to editors:

1. The link to the leaked text: http://corporateeurope.org/sites/default/files/reconstructed_ec_proposal_regulatory_cooperation_march_2015_0.pdf
2. The link to the EU's website on the TTIP: <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/ttip/>

Justice and Environment (J&E) is an association of public interest environmental law organizations. The objective of J&E is to contribute to a better status of environment and human health in Europe. J&E drives for this through the use of law (European and national

environmental laws) and the improvement of access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters by legal means. To learn more visit <http://justiceandenvironment.org/>

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