

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

The Dutch City Council of Heerhugowaard has passed a resolution in which it expresses its concerns over the possible consequences of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, also known as TTIP, and with this letter we wish to express our concerns.

European norms and standards are the base of the TTIP treaty. These norms and standards could exert their influence over the municipality of Heerhugowaard. The City Council of Heerhugowaard would like to request that all possible consequences of the TTIP treaty for local entrepreneurs, multinational corporations and other investors are investigated properly.

The City Council would also like to point out that the TTIP treaty contains certain mechanisms that could possibly have negative consequences for the relations between governing bodies and corporations. Part of the treaty is the so called ISDS, now more commonly known as ICS, which is supposed to solve conflicts between governments and investors outside of the conventional judicial channels. Because of this, the City Council fears that local, national or even European legislature could be in danger of being compromised.

We would like to emphasize that free trade treaties may never be a tool to ease up on or even abolish municipal, regional, national or European law. The City Council of Heerhugowaard considers limitation of legislative freedom by the United States or by any other country due to a free trade treaty with the European Union to be undesirable.

Furthermore, there is an obvious development of consciousness of and a growing interest for these trade treaties. The City Council of Heerhugowaard believes that transparency and sharing information to its citizens is very important. To clarify the concerns of these concerned citizens very well attended and completely effective, we believe that sharing your efforts and decisions in the TTIP treaty would be irreplaceable towards an open European democracy.

In conclusion, the City Council of Heerhugowaard would like to state that the TTIP treaty should be based on clearly defined trade that adheres to European democratic principles and to the European social norms and standards. Any negative changes on these standards in the areas of sustainable development, animal welfare, the economy, healthcare, agriculture, intellectual property and culture should be prevented.

We thank you for undertaking this hearing and we sincerely hope that you, as Member of the European Parliament, will encourage a TTIP treaty on clearly defined trade.

We look forward to receiving your reply soon.

Yours faithfully,  
In the name of the City Council of Heerhugowaard