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4. "Reducing Transatlantic Barriers to Trade and Investment: An Economic Assessment," London: Centre for Economic Policy Research, March 2013.
5. "The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Regulatory Issues: EU Position on Chemicals," Brussels: European Commission, 14 May 2014; People's Movement, "Stop TTIP" (www.people.ie).6. Eurostat, "Average household size" (http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=ilc_lvph01&lang=en).
7. At a meeting in the House of Commons on 3 April 2014.
8. "Reducing Transatlantic Barriers to Trade and Investment: An Economic Assessment," London: Centre for Economic Policy Research, March 2013, section 5.2.3. "In each case, we have used the lower (more skilled) figures for the two scenarios given in Table 38 and applied them across an EU labour force of 243.2 million and US labour force of 155.6 million. Weighting to include the figures for less skilled workers would give even higher figures for the number of jobs to be lost under TTIP."
9. "Impact Assessment Report on the Future of EU-US Trade Relations," Strasbourg: European Commission, 12 March 2013, section 5.9.2.
10. "Refocusing EU Cohesion Policy for Maximum Impact on Growth and Jobs: The Reform in 10 Points," Brussels: European Commission, 19 November 2013.
11. Irish Government News Service, "Comprehensive EU-US agreement could lead to 1.1% increase in Irish GDP—Bruton," 20 June 2014 (www.merrionstreet.ie/index.php/2014/06/comprehensive-eu-us-agreement-could-lead-to-1-1-increase-in-irish-gdp-bruton/.
12. "NAFTA at 20," Washington: Public Citizen, January 2014 (www.citizen.org/documents/press-release-NAFTA-at-20.pdf).

What you can do

- Download and read the pamphlet 'Stop the TTIP' at www.people.ie
- Sign the petition at https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/The_Irish_Congress_of_Trade_Unions_Begin_a_public_awareness_campaign_and_call_for_the_scrapping_of_TTIP/.
- Look out for TTIP-related activities in your area.

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT
GLUAISEACHT AN PHOBAIL

People's Movement • 25 Shanowen Crescent • Dublin 9 • www.people.ie
087 2308330 • post@people.ie

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Is there any evidence that it will it create jobs?

The main goal of TTIP, being negotiated in secret between the EU and the United States, is to remove regulatory "barriers" that restrict the potential profits to be made by transnational corporations on both sides of the Atlantic. Yet these "barriers" are in reality some of our most prized social standards and environmental regulations. However, scant information is available to the public regarding the provisions of the treaty other than the claim that it will create many jobs. But is there any evidence that it will?

The Oireachtas Joint Committee on European Union Affairs submitted a political contribution on TTIP to Richard Bruton in July this year that, while broadly supportive of TTIP, warned that it may pose significant challenges for recession-weakened EU economies and recognised that TTIP may lead to job displacement and loss of employment, as well as new trade and employment opportunities.[1] The minister, who secured formal agreement among the twenty-eight EU member-states to enter talks with the United States last year as part of Ireland's presidency of the EU Council, maintained that Ireland "stood to benefit disproportionately" from the deal.

Elsewhere, the *Irish Times* has cited a study by Copenhagen Economics[2] that found that TTIP could lead to a 2.7 per cent increase in Irish exports, a 1.4 per cent increase in wages, and a 1.6 per cent increase in investment—though it didn't specify over what period.[3]

So what are others saying, particularly at the Commission level? The Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) carried out a study, paid for by the European Commission, that suggested that the EU's economic output could rise by 0.5 per cent by the year 2027 as a result of an EU-US deal.[4] This forecast relied on deregulation in all sectors of the EU member-states' economies. But this has already been ruled out as unlikely by EU negotiators. The chemicals sector was the second most important contributor of gains in the CEPR's calculations, but the Commission has admitted that there is no prospect of regulatory harmonisation in that sector, given the huge differences between the legislative frameworks in the EU and the United States.[5]

CEPR claims that the projected benefits from TTIP could translate into an extra €545 a year for the average family[6] (just about enough to pay water charges), but it is very unlikely that corporate gains would be passed on to the population at large.

The Centre was also commissioned by the British government to conduct a similar study into the possible effects of TTIP on their economy. This resulted in a figure of £10 billion for the possible annual gains to Britain by the year 2027. But this would require the elimination of 75 per cent of all actionable non-tariff barriers in the chemicals, automotive and business/ICT sectors—well beyond anything planned in the current TTIP negotiations. Even the British minister responsible for TTIP, Ken Clarke, confirmed to trade unions and NGOs that he does not consider the £10 billion figure used by the government to be credible.[7]

The CEPR report for the European Commission was unable to predict any net impact on employment levels from TTIP, but did recognise that at least 1.3 million EU workers would lose their jobs as a result of the labour displacement arising from TTIP under the Commission's preferred outcome. Whatever about the new employment opportunities foreseen by the Oireachtas committee, the CEPR calculates that TTIP will cause at least 1 million people to lose their jobs in the EU and United States combined.[8]

Based on these findings, the Commission's own internal impact assessment acknowledged that there would be "prolonged and substantial" adjustment costs as a result of the displacement of labour caused by TTIP. At a time when unemployment rates in Europe already stand at record levels, the Commission further recognised that there are "legitimate concerns" that those workers who lose their jobs as a result of TTIP will not be able to find other employment.[9] To assist the large number of additional unemployed expected from TTIP, the Commission has advised EU member-states to draw on structural support funds, such as the European Globalisation Fund and the European Social Fund, which has been assigned €70 billion to distribute over the seven years 2014–2020.[10]

The only other study to have predicted a net increase in jobs from TTIP comes from the IFO Institut at the University of Munich. Politicians, including Richard Bruton, have regularly misquoted the findings of this report to the effect that TTIP could bring 400,000 new jobs to the EU over time.[11] Yet this figure was presented not as a possible result from TTIP but as a hypothetical estimate of what might happen were the United States to be fully integrated in the EU's internal market. The report's lead author has publicly criticised the Commission for misrepresenting its findings.

It should be noted that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the USA, Canada, and Mexico, which came into force in January 1994, promised hundreds of thousands of extra jobs for the United States but has, according to the Economic Policy Institute's 2006 analysis, caused the net loss of more than a million American jobs and a significant decline in the value of wages for millions more workers.[12]

The benefits of TTIP are illusory, while the threats are all too real. As with other trade agreements in the past, ordinary working people stand to lose out significantly as yet more powers are handed over to transnational corporations—continuing the redistribution of wealth from labour to capital that has been a defining characteristic of both the European and American economies over the last four decades.

1. Houses of the Oireachtas, "Joint Committee on European Union Affairs: Political Contribution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: July 2014" (www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/media/committees/euaffairs/Final-TTIP-Report_09072014.pdf).
2. "Irish GDP 'could increase by 1.1%' under EU-US trade deal," *Irish Times,* 20 June 2014 (www.irishtimes.com/business/sectors/manufacturing/irish-gdp-could-increase-by-1-1-under-eu-us-trade-deal-1.1839613); Copenhagen Economics, "We advise companies, authorities and policy makers where market meets regulation and conflicts arise" (www.copenhageneconomics.com/).
3. Irish Government News Service, "Comprehensive EU-US agreement could lead to 1.1% increase in Irish GDP—Bruton," 20 June 2014 (www.