



Bund für  
Umwelt und  
Naturschutz  
Deutschland



WECEF | Women in Europe for a Common Future



associação sistema terrestre sustentável

HCWH Europe,  
1 Rue de la Pépinière,  
B1000, Brussels

10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## RE: Plenary vote on CETA

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

I am writing to you on behalf of the undersigned NGOs concerning the upcoming plenary vote on CETA taking place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February. We want to ensure that public interest policy objectives are not undermined by private interests, especially those in the fields of environment and health.

Whilst we all understand that international investment can be a powerful engine for economic development: as it currently stands, the CETA agreement is likely to delay, stop, or reverse our efforts to regulate toxic chemicals in the EU and its Member States - including pesticides and endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). CETA will allow foreign investors to claim compensation from the EU or a Member State if measures aimed to protect our health or environment breach CETA's investor rights.

This mechanism could lead to a regulatory chill effect, watering down future ambitious public health and environmental policies and legal measures. Even the simple threat of a claim from foreign investor could create such a chilling effect. You will find more details in an informative report prepared by CIEL: [EU-Canada Trade and Investment Deal Threatens EU Chemical Policies](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017). This report helps to explain the slow progress on EDCs, and the stalling on nanomaterials that can indeed be seen as a fall-out of CETA and, until recently, TTIP negotiations.

After the publication of [New Endocrine Disruptor Rules Address your Trade Concerns, EU tells US, Canada](#) (12<sup>th</sup> December 2016, EurActiv), we know that such agreements do affect policy formation. The article comments on the released memo (14th July 2016) saying: "*The European Commission told US and Canada that draft EU pesticides laws would "address the concerns" they had over possible trade restrictions on goods exposed to endocrine disruptors*". On the 15<sup>th</sup> February, the European Parliament will be called to vote on CETA; you are free to reject this agreement and ask for more. We strongly encourage you to take this last opportunity to protect your citizens and the environment for generations to come.

To conclude, we would like to point out that in today's political climate, European citizens too often regard the EU with mistrust, as being ineffectual and too responsive to private corporate interests. Such scepticism would be further fuelled if guarantees that citizens are asking for (in order to be able to trust trade agreements), are overruled because inappropriate considerations are allowed to steer the discussion.

Therefore we hope that you will take our views into account during the Plenary vote on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February. We remain at your disposal for further discussion.

Yours Sincerely,



Anja Leetz,  
Executive Director, HCWH Europe,  
On behalf of:

Lynn Ladbrook, Chief Executive - **Breast Cancer UK**

Layla Hughes, Senior Attorney - **Centre For International Environmental Law (CIEL)**

Christian Ege, Head of Secretariat – **The Ecological Council**

Francisco Segura, Coordinator - **Ecologistas En Acción**

Ernst-Christoph Stolper, Vice Chairman - **Friends Of The Earth Germany (BUND)**

Ruth Echeverría, Education and Research Manager - **Fundación Alborada**

Génon Jensen, Executive Director - **Health And Environmental Alliance (HEAL)**

Sascha Gabizon, International Director - **Women Engage For A Common Future (WECF)**

Susana Fonseca, Director – **Association For The Sustainability Of The Earth System (ZERO)**