

European Commission
Trade DGA2
Director Ingacio GARCIA BERCERO
B 1049 BRUXELLS

Fax 0032 2 2991111

Bearbeiter:

Anja Kutzsch

Telefon: +49 (0) 30/ 39 74 36 - 06
Telefax: +49 (0) 30/ 39 74 36 - 83

hecht@aoew.de
www.aoew.de

Datum:

2013-12-12

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership poses Risks for the European Water Management in public Ownership

Dear Mr. Garcia Bercero,

The Allianz der öffentlichen Wasserwirtschaft e.V. (AöW) is the representation of interests of public watermanagement organisations in Germany. Following the stakeholderbriefing of the second round of negotiations of TTIP and the information about the EU mandate we note, that not only the private sector and agriculture are affected by TTIP but also the public Companies ("public utilities") and all state levels in the EU Member States. So also our members are affected. It is clear that the hard-won gains for the conservation of public structures and for the achievement of a high standard in public water management (water supply, waste water treatment and river maintenance) in Germany and EU are at stake. This is because, in TTIP all barriers on existing markets of the party`s is to be negotiated."

Further it is foreseen to create an arbitration procedure, which allows compensation payments for companies from the EU and the Member States if unjustified barriers exists or are developed. We know from other existing agreements (Investment Protection and Energy Charta) that the arbitration procedure is secret. They are performed by not democratic legitimated persons who are not accountable to anyone. The commonweal or the protection of environment plays in such procedures no role.

The AöW therefore calls:

1. Because Water is a common good and not a commercial product like any other, the public water management should not be covered from the free trade agreement.

Allianz der öffentlichen Wasserwirtschaft (AöW) e.V.

Präsident und Vorstandsvorsitzender: Dr. Jochen Stemplewski
Vizepräsidenten: Hans-Hermann Baas • Jürgen Bolder

Geschäftsstelle Berlin

Geschäftsführerin: Christa Hecht
Reinhardtstr. 18a • 10117 Berlin

Telefon: +49 (0) 30/ 39 74 36 - 06 • Telefax: +49 (0) 30/ 39 74 36 - 83 • info@aoew.de • www.aoew.de
Bankverbindung: HypoVereinsbank, BLZ 700 202 70, Kto. 660 561 20 • VR 26527 B • Amtsgericht Charlottenburg

2. The principle of subsidiarity for the water management and the public services must be kept in mind, because water management (water supply, waste water treatment, river maintenance) is a public service task of local and regional authorities.

3. Because water is part of the local self-government guarantee, it must be ruled out an attack and the undermining of this warranty by the TTIP.

4. Public water management is oriented toward the common good. Arbitration shouldn't be allowed in which public interest can be ignored into non-transparent negotiations. We express our opposition to the inclusion of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) in the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

5. Water management requires an effective and sustainable water protection. The necessary requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, all the directives concerning water protection and national transpositions (laws and regulations) shall not be undermined by the TTIP.

6. Public water management has also responsibility towards to those who perform the task every day. The tariff authority, the collective labour agreements and the labour protection laws (safety and health) must be recognized and protected from attacks by the TTIP.

The successful European citizen's initiative "right2water" shows how strongly European people support public water service. We demand to hedge the interests of people for water as a common good and for all public services.

At the stakeholderbriefing on October 15 our member W. Deinlein has turned a question from the audience. In your answer you offered a call with AöW about our concerns. We would like to emphasize herewith that representatives of AöW like to come to Brussels to discuss the raised issues with you.

Kind regards



Christa Hecht
General Manager