

Self-organized European Citizens' Initiative
Press release
7.10.2015

+++ Success for "Stop TTIP": 3,1xx,xxx million signatures! +++
Symbolic handover action in Brussels / Alliance calls for political implementation

Earlier today the self-organised European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) Stop TTIP symbolically handed over 3.x million signatures to the European Commission at their Brussels headquarter. „Stop TTIP collected more signatures than any other European Citizens' Initiative so far – we demand that the European Commission pays heed to the protest against CETA and TTIP. We want the TTIP negotiations to be stopped and CETA must not be ratified,” says Michael Efler, a member of the Stop TTIP citizens' committee.

“In one year alone we united three times as many people than needed for an ECI to be successful according to EU rules. We went beyond the necessary seven country quorum to surpass the signature threshold in 23 Member States. More than 500 organisations from across the EU are part of the Stop TTIP ECI,” adds Susan George from the Stop TTIP citizens' committee. “This great success shows how strong opposition to TTIP and CETA has grown throughout Europe. If there is just a grain of truth to the promises for transparency and citizen consultation, the EU institutions must organise a hearing in Parliament and the Commission must take action to stop the treaties.”

Stop TTIP activists from all over Europe today placed many kilos of Stop TTIP ECI signatures onto a giant scale - until such time as the citizens' voices outweighed the corporate interests represented through sand bags placed on the opposite side. “Let's TTIP the scales” was the motto of the action.

The self-organised Stop TTIP ECI calls on the institutions of the European Union and its member states to stop negotiations with the United States on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and not to ratify the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with Canada. The initiative started on a self-organised basis exactly one year ago (October 7, 2014) after the European Commission declared an official ECI as inadmissible. According to the EU Commission's view an ECI may not be negatively formulated and it may not be directed at ongoing contractual negotiations. Stop TTIP is currently challenging the Commission's decision in the European Court of Justice.

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Action photos will be available from about 12 clock at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/eci_ttip/
An action video will be available from 8.10. at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ecittip>