



**International Transport
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Case study:

What TiSA would mean for aviation workers

Leaked TiSA documents on air transport services cover six areas of the aviation industry. Ground handling is just one of them, but it opens a window onto what TiSA could mean for aviation workers.

That's because to know what a TiSA-dominated world would mean we only have to look at what's already happened: the European Commission is on record as saying that its TiSA negotiating position reflects what's been done to this sector in the European Union (EU) by waves of liberalisation.

The EU intends to export its ground handling liberalisation to the other countries in the TiSA club, even though that deregulation has had a negative impact on quality ground handling services at European airports, put decent jobs at risk and jeopardised fair competition. Meanwhile, cost cutting and subcontracting are driving a dangerous race to the bottom that has made the operational situation unsustainable for the vast majority of ground handling companies as well.

The effects of deregulation on ground handling jobs are already evident. Under TiSA those jobs will become more unstable, working conditions will worsen, wages will decline, anti-union practices will flourish, the risks to health worsen, and service quality deteriorate. But ITF unions are fighting back. What's been allowed to happen has inspired the ITF Airports Organising priority project, which fights for real, safe jobs with genuine employers. This is embodied in the Airports United group, which brings together baggage handling, maintenance, check-in, cleaning, security and other workers in each airport into one network with a mission to improve the industry and secure recognition and wages justice for all those who work in it.

TiSA means trouble

Why this secretive trade deal threatens aviation workers' jobs



What is TiSA?

It's the Trade in Services Agreement, a huge, secretive international trade deal being negotiated by the European Union and 22 other countries. If allowed to succeed, TiSA will hand power over jobs and trade law to multinational corporations, stripping away workers' rights and protections. Those countries would willingly sign away their rights to regulate services and technologies for decades to come. All in the name of free trade and competition.

How will it affect me?

TiSA is a particular menace to the jobs of workers in four transport sectors: aviation, maritime, road transport, and post and delivery. If allowed to come into force it would risk creating a vulnerable and exploitable workforce in desperate competition for unprotected contract jobs – while the giant multinational corporations, through privatisation and deregulation, get to call the shots. And any attempts to protect jobs and national interests could be prohibited by labelling them 'anti-competitive'.

Who's behind TiSA?

Two groups. One's a club of nations that call themselves 'The Really Good Friends of Services': Australia; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; the European Union; Hong Kong; Iceland; Israel; Japan; Lichtenstein; Mauritius; Mexico; New Zealand; Norway; Pakistan; Panama; Peru; South Korea; Switzerland; Taiwan, China; Turkey and the USA. The other group – who will be the ones to benefit the most – are known as 'Team TiSA': a collection of tech giants like Microsoft, IBM and Google, global logistics and transport operators such as DHL, Fedex, and UPS, and finance moguls like Citigroup and AIG.

So who's not behind TiSA? You, me, your trade union, social movements. The kind of organisations we rely on to protect our rights and safety. They're all shut out of the negotiations.

What can we do about TiSA?

Lots. Transport workers' unions are a vital part of the fightback against this deal. In Paraguay and Uruguay, trade unions explained to their governments why TiSA was bad for their citizens – and both nations walked out of the TiSA club.



You can do the same in your country. The ITF is calling on all its member unions to explain to their governments and elected representatives just how unaccountable, destructive and undemocratic TiSA really would be. That's why we, other global union federations and the International Trade Union Confederation have all prepared arguments and materials for you to share and to help you make sure that your country opts out before it's too late.

Join us.
Find what you need here

www.tisameanstrouble.org

Advice and materials for transport workers and their unions

<http://admin.itfglobal.org/media/1635608/the-trouble-with-tisa-report.pdf>

The trouble with TiSA. An in depth analysis of TiSA and how it threatens transport workers' rights

www.tisauncovered.org

All you need to know about TiSA, plus tools and links to help you fight it

www.ituc-csi.org/all-about-tisa

Everything you didn't know about the Trade in Services Agreement. Includes a handy leaflet

www.globaljustice.org.uk/resources/what-tisa-and-why-we-need-stop-it

Briefing by Global Justice Now

<https://ttip-leaks.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/TiSA-factsheet.pdf>

Greenpeace 2016 factsheet

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/stop_tisa_en_auchde/?pv=81&rc=fb

Avaaz petition against TiSA



"TiSA would supercharge the most powerful companies in the transport industry, giving them preferential treatment. What's missing from this equation is any value at all for workers and citizens. It creates serious barriers for any state wanting to invest in, manage and operate its national infrastructure or – crucially – to defend decent work and decent terms and conditions across transport. It is our duty as trade unionists to build the knowledge and alliances needed to challenge the secrecy and lack of democracy involved, and develop realistic, worker-centred alternatives"

Paddy Crumlin, ITF president

"Adopting the '21st century' rules of the Really Good Friends and Team TiSA would have massive, irreversible and potentially devastating impacts on domestic policies and regulation in these countries, their workers and their communities"

Professor Jane Kelsey in *The trouble with TiSA: The Trade in Services Agreement and how it threatens transport workers' rights*



"TiSA is poison for democracy. If it is adopted, workers' rights will be eroded, corporations will have the box seat in economic decision-making and the door will be open to a new wave of privatisation"

Sharan Burrow, general secretary, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)