

International CETA Speaking Tour: Monday 9th November, 7.30pm, Liberty Hall, Dublin 1.

Patricia King, General Secretary of the ICTU joins **Maude Barlow**, National Chair of the Council of Canadians, and other international speakers, to highlight the threat that the EU-Canada 'free' trade deal (CETA) poses to our workers' rights, democracy, health & safety standards, environment and public services.

Organised by [ATTAC](#) (Ireland), [Peoples' Movement](#), & [TTIP Information Network](#).

CETA is the less well-known cousin of TTIP, the EU-US 'free' trade deal currently being drafted. However, negotiations on the CETA deal are closed; the text is agreed. If adopted, it would allow companies to sue governments in a private arbitration when laws interfere in their profits. Early next year, it will be MEPs who decide whether to reject CETA or not. An international movement of trade unions and other civil society organisations is calling for a big 'NO' to CETA, and for the promotion of a democratic, transparent and worker-friendly European trade agenda instead.

This meeting on November 9th is an opportunity for trade unionists and all those concerned with democracy, to learn exactly how CETA will damage our society and how we can all work together to apply pressure on our democratic representatives in the European Parliament to vote NO to CETA.



The biggest protest in recent German history: 250,000 march against CETA & TTIP in Berlin, 10th Oct., 2015

Other speakers on the night include **Yash Tandon**, a Ugandan trade expert, and **Polly Jones** who is Head of Policy & Campaigns at Global Justice Now (which was formally the World Development Movement). Other November dates for this International CETA Speaking Tour include: 1st Nov. Dundee; 2nd Nov. Manchester; 3rd Nov. Leeds; 5th Nov. London; 6th Nov. Oxford; 7th Nov. Cardiff.

- **The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) rejects CETA:** At Congress in July 2015 the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) passed a strongly worded motion calling for the complete end of the CETA negotiations. See the motion here: <http://www.ictu.ie/bdc15/motions/subject/transatlantic+trade+and+investment+partnership+%28ttip%29/>

- **The European Confederation of Trade Unions (ECTU) rejects CETA:** "The ETUC opposes the CETA agreement ... The ETUC opposes in particular Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms - which privilege foreign investors above all others and amounts to the privatisation of justice – [and] the negative list approach (covering all services unless specifically excluded), and the inclusion of public services in trade agreements such as TTIP (USA) and CETA (Canada). See their '2015-2019 Action Plan': https://www.etuc.org/sites/www.etuc.org/files/other/files/action_programme-uk-def.pdf
- **The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) rejects CETA:** "The CLC will continue to work with the labour movement and other allies to: fight ratification of the proposed Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) through public education, campaigning and lobbying." See the 2014 resolution: <http://convention2014.canadianlabour.ca/resolutions>

The Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada is now complete and is awaiting approval by the European Parliament. It contains an Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism which allows any company with business activity in Canada to bypass the Irish and European courts and to sue the Irish government for full financial compensation where they feel that any law or regulation is an 'unnecessarily restrictive' barrier to trade, or is not enacted in the 'least meddlesome' manner that it could be, or is an illegitimate 'non-tariff barrier'.

As to whether particular workers' rights, health and safety regulations, food standards, environmental protection, the operation of governmental public services, etc, are illegal non-tariff barriers or not, the text of CETA as it stands, dictates that this will be decided by a panel of arbitrators at the ISDS.

Learn more about CETA and get campaign resources from the Council of Canadians here: <http://canadians.org/ceta>

Maude Barlow is the author of sixteen books, including the international bestsellers *Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop the Corporate Threat of the World's Water* and *Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water*. She served as Senior Advisor on Water to the 63rd President of the United Nations General Assembly and was a leader in the campaign to have water recognized as a human right by the UN.

"Do not listen to those who say there is nothing you can do to the very real and large social and environmental issues of our time. A life of activism gives hope, which is a moral imperative in this work and in this world. You meet the nicest people, you help transform ideas and systems and you commit to leaving the earth in at least as whole a condition as you inherited it."

- Maude Barlow,

National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, June 2009, addressing Trent University after receiving an honorary Doctor of Laws.

An excellent analysis of the CETA is available here:

https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2014/09/Making_Sense_of_the_CETA.pdf (By: Scott Sinclair, Stuart Trew and Hadrian Mertins-Kirkwood (eds). September 2014. 'Making Sense of the CETA: An Analysis of the Final Text of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement'. Published by Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.)

And the full-text of CETA is available here: http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2014/september/tradoc_152806.pdf

Speakers for Dublin leg of the CETA Speaking Tour – biographies here:

Maude Barlow, National Chair of the Council of Canadians: “Maude Barlow is the National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and chairs the board of Washington-based Food and Water Watch. She is a board member of the San Francisco-based International Forum on Globalization and a Councillor with the Hamburg-based World Future Council.

Maude is the recipient of twelve honorary doctorates as well as many awards, including the 2005 Right Livelihood Award (known as the “Alternative Nobel”), the 2005 Lannan Foundation Cultural Freedom Fellowship Award, the Citation of Lifetime Achievement at the 2008 Canadian Environment Awards, the 2009 Earth Day Canada Outstanding Environmental Achievement Award, the 2009 Planet in Focus Eco Hero Award, and the 2011 EarthCare Award, the highest international honour of the Sierra Club (US).”

In 2008/2009, she served as Senior Advisor on Water to the 63rd President of the United Nations General Assembly and was a leader in the campaign to have water recognized as a human right by the UN. She is also the author of dozens of reports, as well as 17 books, including her latest, [Blue Future: Protecting Water For People And The Planet Forever](#). More: <http://canadians.org/maude>

Patricia King, General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions: Patricia is a former vice-President of SIPTU and also served as one of two vice-Presidents of Congress. A full time official with SIPTU for over 25 years, she was the first woman to serve as a national officer of the union when she was appointed vice-President, in May 2010. She has represented workers in all areas of the economy, in both the public and private sectors. Patricia was a lead negotiator in both the Croke Park and Haddington Road agreements and is a member of the National Oversight Body tasked with implementation of the latter agreement.

She played a leading role in the Irish Ferries dispute (2005/6) and in subsequent negotiations that saw an overhaul of employment rights law and the establishment of the National Employment Rights Authority (NERA). Patricia currently serves on the boards of Pobal and the Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) and was recently appointed to the board of the Apprenticeship Council. More: <http://www.ictu.ie/about/staff.html>

Yash Tandon, Ugandan trade expert: “Is from Uganda and has worked at many different levels as an academic, a teacher, a political thinker, a rural development worker, a civil society activist, and an institution builder. He was involved in the democratic struggles in Uganda and was member of the interim Uganda Parliament (1979-80). In 1997 he founded the Southern and Eastern Trade information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) of which he is still the Chairman.

It is an NGO which seeks to build African capacity to negotiate, among others, on trade, investment and intellectual property issues. From 2005 to 2009, he was the Executive Director of the Geneva-based South Centre which is an inter-governmental think-tank of the South. He and his wife now live in Oxford, UK.” More: <http://yashtandon.com/about-yash/>

Polly Jones, Head of Policy & Campaigns, Global Justice Now (formally World Development Movement): “Polly joined Global Justice Now in September 2013. Between 2003 and 2013, Polly was International Officer for UNISON, the public service trade union. She has worked with trade unions and other civil society groups all around the world, in particular southern Africa and Latin America. Her areas of expertise include international development, trade and public services. She has an MSc from the School of Oriental and African studies (SOAS).” More: <http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/users/polly-jones>