Trade In Services Agreement (TISA) and Public Services

Acknowledging

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Why a TISA?

- Growth in services sector
- Corporate profits
- New standard for liberalisation
- Doha round at a standstill
- Force others to join

Who does it cover?

- Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan
- Canada, Chili, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, United States
- Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, 28 members of the EU
- Turkey, Israel
- China announced recently
- YOU?

What does it cover?

- Financial services
- Energy and water provision
- Education
- Healthcare
- Retail
- Transport
- Telecommunications
- Legal services
- Tourism
- Mode 4

What does it say?

It's a secret.

But will go beyond GATS

- Otherwise why do it?
- Deeper commitments (>90% coverage?)

Public services and trade treaties

- confining public services within existing boundaries
- increasing the bargaining power of multinational corporations, and
- locking in future privatization
- Harder to reverse previous ones

Insufficient carve-out for public services

- GATS excludes services provided "in the exercise of governmental authority."
- defined as "any service which is supplied neither on a commercial basis nor in competition with one or more service suppliers."

Beyond Non-Discrimination

- GATS prohibits public monopolies and exclusive service suppliers in committed sectors.
- Governments cannot restrict or require “specific types of legal entities” through which to supply services.
- applying ‘pro-competitive’ regulation to previously socialized services

Additional TISA elements?

- Government procurement
- Subsidising non profitable sections of a public service
- Domestic regulation: disciplining non-discriminatory regulation
- Cross-border information flows
- State-owned enterprises

What can we do?

Fight back!

(And that means YOU)