

**Question for written answer E-014788/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: The Commission and TTIP/CETA - new findings on corporate lobbying

A new report released on 12 October 2015 by an international group of NGOs and trade unions entitled 'Public services under attack' contains a number of extremely disconcerting findings¹.

The report states that TTIP and CETA show clear hallmarks of being influenced by the same corporate lobby groups working in the area of services that have been built over the past decades during previous trade talks, such as the EU's most powerful corporate lobby group, Business Europe, and the European Services Forum, a lobby outfit banding together business associations as well as major companies such as British Telecom (BT) and Deutsche Bank.

Moreover, the report states that the relationship between industry and the Commission is bi-directional, with the Commission actively stimulating business lobbying around its trade negotiations. This has been characterised as 'reverse lobbying', i.e. 'the public authority lobbies business to lobby itself'. Pierre Defraigne, former Deputy Director-General in the Commission's DG Trade, speaks of a 'systemic collusion between the Commission and business circles'.

Can the Commission respond to these findings as a matter of urgency, given that there are a number of important trade agreements being negotiated at the moment, including TiSA?

¹ <http://corporateeurope.org/sites/default/files/attachments/public-services-under-attack.pdf>