NEW PROPOSALS ON REGULATION IN TTIP STILL THREATEN PUBLIC HEALTH

The Commission's latest proposals (March 2016) for chapters on '**regulatory cooperation**' (which would cover all sectors included in TTIP, such as health services, medical devices, pharmaceuticals or chemicals) and '**good regulatory practices**' (which would apply to all regulatory decision-making) still **pose a threat to public health**

- While both chapters reaffirm the '**right to regulate**' of relevant authorities, their main purpose is **to cut 'red tape' for big business**

- The chapter on 'good regulatory practices' includes key elements of the **US 'notice and comment'** system (which US negotiators are keen to export to the EU), such as an **'early warning'** on planned regulations and an **opportunity for interested parties (especially big business) to comment on proposals**

- 'Good regulatory practices' also involves entrenching the practice of **economic impact assessments**, which might make it more difficult to introduce health-improving regulation if this adds to the costs of business activity

- 'Good regulatory practices' therefore threaten **'paralysis by analysis'** in the regulatory process

- The chapter on 'regulatory cooperation' still includes provisions that require parties to **exchange information** on planned regulatory decisions, giving outside regulators the opportunity to influence domestic decision-making

- While the much-criticised **'Regulatory Cooperation Council/Body'** in previous drafts is no longer mentioned in the proposals, there are plans to reintroduce a similar institution in future drafts

Health-related decision-making is vulnerable to such cross-cutting regulatory provisions given the costs it can impose on businesses. We have already seen how US and business pressure during the TTIP talks has lead the Commission shelve plans to ban endocrine-disrupting chemicals used in pesticides or allow imports of beef washed in lactic acid.

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