

Brussels, 20th October 2016

To the attention of Mr Minister-President of Wallonia, Paul MAGNETTE, Mr Minister-President of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels, Rudy DEMOTTE, of the President of the Parliament of Wallonia, André ANTOINE, and President of the Parliament of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels, Philippe COURARD.

Dear Minister-Presidents, Dear Presidents,

As progressive Members of the European Parliament, we would like to express our full support for your opposition to CETA.

This agreement has been negotiated behind closed doors without the consultation of elected representatives and raises many democratic issues. Beyond the serious concerns you raised about this free-trade agreement, you clearly identified the need for transparency at the heart of the decision-making process. We have repeatedly conveyed similar objections through our parliamentary activities. Indeed, what is at stake in CETA goes beyond a simple technical agreement on liberalisation of goods and services: it is about our social and environmental norms, the regulatory capacity of public authorities and the independence of our justice.

In challenging the ultimatum imposed by the European Commission and the various threats of recent days, you have struck a blow for democratic vitality. Everywhere, voices are getting louder and calling for reason. However, reason cannot exist without thorough and informed debate. What purpose does democracy serve, if decisions are made in advance?

In the face of a profound democratic crisis, your position and political courage are exemplary. All responsible politicians must heed the concerns raised by civil society because a democracy isolated from a vigorous civil society and without accountable political representatives is a democracy lacking in substance.

Sincerely,

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2. Laura AGEA - EFDD (IT)

3. Marina ALBIOL GUZMÁN - GUE/NGL (SP)
4. Martina ANDERSON - GUE/NGL (UK)
5. Marie ARENA - S&D (BE)
6. Guillaume BALAS - S&D (FR)
7. Hugues BAYET - S&D (BE)
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11. Lynn BOYLAN - GUE/NGL (IR)
12. Klaus BUCHNER - Greens/EFA (DE)
13. Matt CARTHY - GUE/NGL (IR)
14. Fabio Massimo CASTALDO - EFDD (IT)
15. Nessa CHILDERS - S&D (IR)
16. Kostas CHRYSOGONOS - GUE/NGL (GR)
17. Sergio COFFERATI - S&D (IT)
18. Javier COUSO PERMUY - GUE/NGL (SP)
19. Karima DELLI - Greens/EFA (FR)
20. Fabio DE MASI - GUE/NGL (DE)
21. Stefan ECK - GUE/NGL (DE)
22. Bas EICKHOUT - Greens/EFA (NL)
23. Jill EVANS - Greens/EFA (UK)
24. Eleonora FORENZA - GUE/NGL (IT)
25. Tania GONZÁLEZ PEÑAS - GUE/NGL (SP)
26. Thomas HÄNDEL - GUE/NGL (DE)
27. Martin HÄUSLING - Greens/EFA (DE)
28. Anja HAZEKAMP - GUE/NGL (NL)
29. Maria HEUBUCH - Greens/EFA (DE)
30. Yannick JADOT - Greens/EFA (FR)
31. Eva JOLY - Greens/EFA (FR)
32. Agnes JONGERIUS - S&D (NL)
33. Josu JUARISTI ABAUNZ - GUE/NGL (SP)
34. Rina Ronja KARI - GUE/NGL (DK)
35. Ska KELLER - Greens/EFA (DE)
36. Jan KELLER - S&D (CZ)

37. Kateřina KONEČNÁ - GUE/NGL (CZ)
38. Dietmar KÖSTER - S&D (DE)
39. Stelios KOULOGLOU - GUE/NGL (GR)
40. Kostadinka KUNEVA - GUE/NGL (GR)
41. Merja KYLLÖNEN - GUE/NGL (FI)
42. Philippe LAMBERTS - Greens/EFA (BE)
43. Patrick LE HYARIC - GUE/NGL (FR)
44. Paloma LÓPEZ BERMEJO - GUE/NGL (SP)
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57. Maria NOICHL - S&D (DE)
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59. Pier Antonio PANZERI - S&D (IT)
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61. Gilles PARGNEAUX - S&D (FR)
62. Georgi PIRINSKI - S&D (BG)
63. Soraya POST - S&D (SE)
64. Michel REIMON - Greens/EFA (AT)
65. Claude ROLIN - PPE (BE)
66. Virginie ROZIERE - S&D (FR)
67. Sofia SAKORAFI - GUE/NGL (GR)
68. María Dolores Lola SÁNCHEZ CALDENTEY - GUE/NGL (SP)
69. Helmut SCHOLZ - GUE/NGL (DE)

70. Molly SCOTT-CATO - Greens/EFA (UK)
71. Maria Lidia SENRA RODRÍGUEZ - GUE/NGL (SP)
72. Igor ŠOLTES, Greens/EFA (SL)
73. Barbara SPINELLI - GUE/NGL (IT)
74. Bart STAES - Greens/EFA (BE)
75. Dario TAMBURRANO - EFDD (IT)
76. Marc TARABELLA - S&D (BE)
77. Keith TAYLOR - Greens/EFA (UK)
78. Josep-Maria TERRICABRAS - Greens/EFA (SP)
79. Isabelle THOMAS - S&D (FR)
80. Estefanía TORRES MARTÍNEZ - GUE/NGL (SP)
81. Claude TURMES - Greens/EFA (LU)
82. Ernest URTASUN - Greens/EFA (SP)
83. Marco VALLI - EFDD (IT)
84. Kathleen VAN BREMPT - S&D (BE)
85. Marie Christine VERGIAT - GUE/NGL (FR)
86. Tatjana ŽDANOKA - Greens/EFA (LV)
87. Gabi ZIMMER - GUE/NGL (DE)
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