Twitter Thread by John Reynolds

John Reynolds
@SeanMac_R

I spoke with @aliceeire at the launch of this report in 2017 by the Comhlámh Trade Justice group. There are real and serious social implications of the CETA agreement for Ireland, Europe, Canada, and the global South

> Comhl\xe1mh is concerned that the government is moving to ratify the EU Canada Trade Deal known as CETA.https://t.co/l8kQN219Ux pic.twitter.com/DWSkJVbmgB
>
> — Comhl\xe1mh (@Comhlamh) December 12, 2020

The text of the CETA (EU-Canada “mega-regional” trade & investment) deal was agreed between the EU and Canada in 2016, but needs to be ratified by every EU member state to come fully into force. Only around half have done so far, partly because of mass activism across Europe

Things have been relatively quiet on the Irish front since 2017. But the Irish government has now put it the onto the parliamentary agenda for this Tuesday – presumably to try guillotine through a ratification vote with minimum time & space for opposition https://t.co/iZdlraAsTC

> Government is attempting to pass CETA on Tuesday, in the Christmas rush to avoid media & debate. If signed, this trade treaty will allow multinational companies to sue Ireland if we bring in strong climate & social rights protections. It will also likely decimate family farming. https://t.co/9rZGiaGscZ
>
> — Sin\xe9ad Mercier (@sineadmercier) December 12, 2020

"New generation" deals like CETA go way beyond basic trade flows: everything from trade in goods & services to finance & intellectual property, (de)regulation in all sectors of the economy, plus substantial rights & protections for investors -the C in CETA is for 'comprehensive'

The implications and risks are huge for worker's rights, environmental protection, public health, food standards, for small farmers, public services - for democracy https://t.co/7DthdtkqKa

“Free” trade is not fair trade, and is also not really free – it brings hugely disproportionate structural advantages to capital and big corporations with larger economies of scale - ‘capitalism on steroids’ https://t.co/Y9oCKcO6Qy

> The Irish government trying to sneakily push through approval of #CETA this coming Tuesday
>
> A far reaching right wing trade agreement that is devastating to any notions of democracy or tackling climate change or global justice
>
> Its capitalism on steroids.
>
> — Mark Malone (@soundmigration) December 12, 2020

On investment protection, the research done shows that the type of investor vs. state legal mechanism which CETA follows has been overwhelmingly most beneficial to (and actively exploited by) the biggest multi-billion dollar companies

In the face of sustained activism & mass mobilisation, the original text of the CETA agreement was tweaked to repackage the 'Investor-State Dispute Mechanism' slightly as an 'Investor Court System', but the fundamental premise and problems remain the same https://t.co/eBAVBF8Dhh

> Capitalism: \u201centrepreneurs take risks and should be rewarded kindly for their risk taking.\u201d#CETA: \u201centrepreneurs take risks and if they fail they should be able to sue sovereign states.\u201d
>
> — Dave Gibney (@davegibney) December 12, 2020

This was tinkering around the edges which specialists in international economic law like Gus Van Harten found did "very little to alleviate key concerns arising from the CETA's proposed special rights and privileges for foreign investors" https://t.co/7BGh9ZzOF0

Green Party reps were there at that @Comhlamh event in 2017, as they were at most of the events and demonstrations through the height of the activism on TTIP and CETA between 2014-2017.

Along with the socialist left and Sinn Féin, the Green Party maintained a position of clear opposition to CETA. They ran a "12 Reasons We Oppose CETA" campaign. They are now, all too predictably, part of the government proposing to push it through.

Will try and collect some other info & threads below on all this https://t.co/0z6rvnjK9m

> Morning,
> We have until Tuesday at 4pm to #PostPoneTheCETAVote.
> Pls email/call/tweet your local TD\u2019s and demand it be given proper scrutiny and not rushed through while everyone is distracted. pic.twitter.com/xMFAunQEKe
>
> — Tony - Pod Guy - Groves (@Trickstersworld) December 13, 2020

"utterly disastrous & stupid" https://t.co/c0rLzgx8nu

> #postponetheCETAvote It would be utterly disastrous & stupid for Ireland to gratuitously (no one is making us) sign up to investor courts which allow corporations to sue states for billions if they introduce better health, environment or

equality laws. This is not about trade 1/n https://t.co/3oHrMLng0w

— Alice-Mary Higgins (@aliceeire) December 12, 2020

opposition from scientists, trade unionists and activists, and even lawyers.. https://t.co/M8IaMbpMlf

I'm in a meeting with eminent lawyers & scientists, trade unionists and activists and I can tell you they are not happy with the Governments plans to rush through #CETA #PausetheVote Private Investor Courts have consequences for climate action, works rights and public health.

— Lynn Boylan \U0001f377\U0001f4d6\U0001f43e (@LNBDublin) December 12, 2020

thread ending with info on CETA's "zombie clause" https://t.co/mtqrt7lnbO

An all time low for an Irish Government has been hit. By pure chance this afternoon I noticed what appeared to be a Government motion to ratify the deeply controversial EU Canada Trade Deal #CETA next Tuesday 15 Dec. Yes the one with the dreaded #ICS #ISDS clauses. Yes its true -

— AttractaUB - Access to Justice is my thing .. (@attractaub) December 11, 2020

another thread with some of the Green Party's greatest hits for the record https://t.co/1vl3Bphnhf

So on Tuesday the government are going to sneak through #CETA, the \u201cfree trade\u201d agreement between Europe & Canada. Putting the flaws aside, this is being done without proper scrutiny (avoiding the Seanad) for reasons that will become clear. #StopCETA
This will be a thread. pic.twitter.com/CEk1qsM343

— Tony - Pod Guy - Groves (@Trickstersworld) December 12, 2020

"a terrible deal for workers and environment" https://t.co/CiJTeM454I

I spent years in European Parliament as Left MEP responsible for following the #CETA trade negotiations.

It's a terrible deal for workers and environment. It's a great deal for corporations who win the right to sue states if they interfere with their profit-making.#StopCETA

— Paul Murphy (@paulmurphy_TD) December 13, 2020

"CETA does not protect the environmental standards we desperately need"; "We're creating a system that gives excess power to corporations"; "We are calling for #StopCETA"

campaign organised by @UpliftIRL: https://t.co/2HvJr60e5m

The government is bouncing TDs into a last minute vote on Tuesday that will sign us up to the dangerous trade deal #CETA forever. Can you send an email to your TD today? https://t.co/69jTyuibQV

— Uplift (@UpliftIRL) December 13, 2020

I also spoke at number of events on TTIP & CETA over the years organised by @garethmurphyIE & @davegibney - their unions @fsuireland & @MandateTU have been doing vital work on this from the outset https://t.co/xXSDFfSXDM

> What trade unionists need to know about #ttip and #CETA from the @TUnionLeftForum from 2016 but still relevant https://t.co/6Pdvx2fXLB
>
> — Gareth Murphy (@garethmurphyIE) December 13, 2020

Likewise @UniteunionROI @ConnectUnion @ifut @TUnionLeftForum & other unions have had clear analysis of detrimental impact on workers' rights and public services - @irishcongress overview here of 'why unions oppose TTIP & CETA: https://t.co/nJcVK9G2BX

I also worked on a report with the @IrishCancerSoc which found that deals like TTIP (EU-US deal as it was proposed then) and CETA undermine the state's capacity to prioritise public health, and will result in the lowering of regulatory standards https://t.co/bGKygk0Zs6