

ACTION ALERT:

Stop the Pork Industry from Using the US-EU Free Trade Agreement to Attack Animal Welfare Standards



Above: Farrowing crates are metal-barred crates in which factory farms confine female breeding pigs while they birth and nurse their piglets. Farrowing crates restrict sows from turning around or taking more than one step in any direction. Sows spend two to three weeks nursing their piglets; when their piglets are taken from them, they are placed back in a gestation crate to begin another cycle of impregnation and four-month long pregnancy. Banned in the United Kingdom, farrowing crates are standard operating procedure in the United States pork industry.

TTIP: Free Trade... or Caged Animals?

If the US industrial pork industry has its way, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) a free trade agreement currently under negotiation between the United States and the European Union could make it illegal for the European Union to maintain animal welfare regulations on pork products imported from the United States.

In the National Pork Producers Council's formal comment on the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, the industry group asserted that:

"U.S. negotiators must avoid introduction into the negotiations of other potential non-science based proposals by the EU that could, if implemented, act as major impediments to trade (e.g., animal welfare measures)....

A full recognition of equivalence by the EU has been a long sought, but elusive, U.S. government and U.S. meat industry goal. An EU equivalence commitment under the TTIP should be broad enough to ensure acceptance of existing U.S. [sanitary and phytosanitary} practices, and forward leaning in nature, to ensure that the EU cannot negate market access negotiated through the TTIP by imposing new measures (for example, relating to animal welfare or newly emerging and unanticipated production technology developments)...

During the course of the TTIP negotiations, we expect that the EU may table other proposals that, if implemented, would act as serious obstacles to free trade. One example is animal welfare measures, where the EU has implemented measures in its domestic market, which if imposed on the U.S. pork industry, would compromise our ability to export under the TTIP. The imposition of EU animal welfare standards on U.S. pork producers would be inconsistent with WTO rules and should be a non-starter in the TTIP negotiations. The WTO agreements do not permit the imposition of import restrictions based on animal welfare concerns, and such an action would thus violate GATT Article III, Article XI and various provisions in the WTO SPS Agreement."

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Read more about TTIP's threat to farmed animals at freetradekillsanimals.org/ttip.
2. Call your Senators and Representative and urge them to oppose ANY "Fast Track or "Smart Track" legislation that will expedite TTIP by prohibiting members of Congress from amending the TTIP text by adding animal welfare provisions or removing anti-animal provisions,. You can find their contact info at <http://freetradekillsanimals.org/leg>. Ask them for a reply in writing. Email their reply to info@freetradekillsanimals.org.

Global Justice for Animals and the Environment

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