

Democratic control of TiSA

Since 2013 secret negotiations have taken place between the Norwegian government, the United States, EU member states and 21 other countries throughout the world to put in place a new, global trade agreement regarding services. The fact that these negotiations are taking place without any form of transparency is in itself a matter of concern, and represents a threat to democratic control of social development.

What we know for sure is what was included in the opening offer to the Norwegian government in 2013. The position then was that major, key public services would not be included in the agreement. This included important areas such as education, and hospital and social services. Based on subsequent leaked documents, questions have been raised about whether Norway has changed its point of view, and whether the government has now opened up the education sector to international service providers. **The National Congress of Union of Education Norway demands that the government does not include the education sector in the trade in service agreement.**

Further, we know that the agreement will prevent countries from introducing new market regulations or reintroducing old ones. One of the purposes of the agreement is to restrict the contractual parties' opportunity for managing and controlling how important areas of society and services markets work. It is essential that democracy is ensured control over social developments in the future too. **The National Congress of Union of Education Norway demand that the Norwegian government does not accept an agreement that cannot later be reversed by means of democratic decisions.**