# Fighting the transatlantic corporate bill of rights

# European resistance against the proposed investment provisions in TTIP/TAFTA

Pia Eberhardt Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) pia@corporateeurope.org

Presentation for:
Public symposium – serious threats
posed by TAFTA
17 December 2013

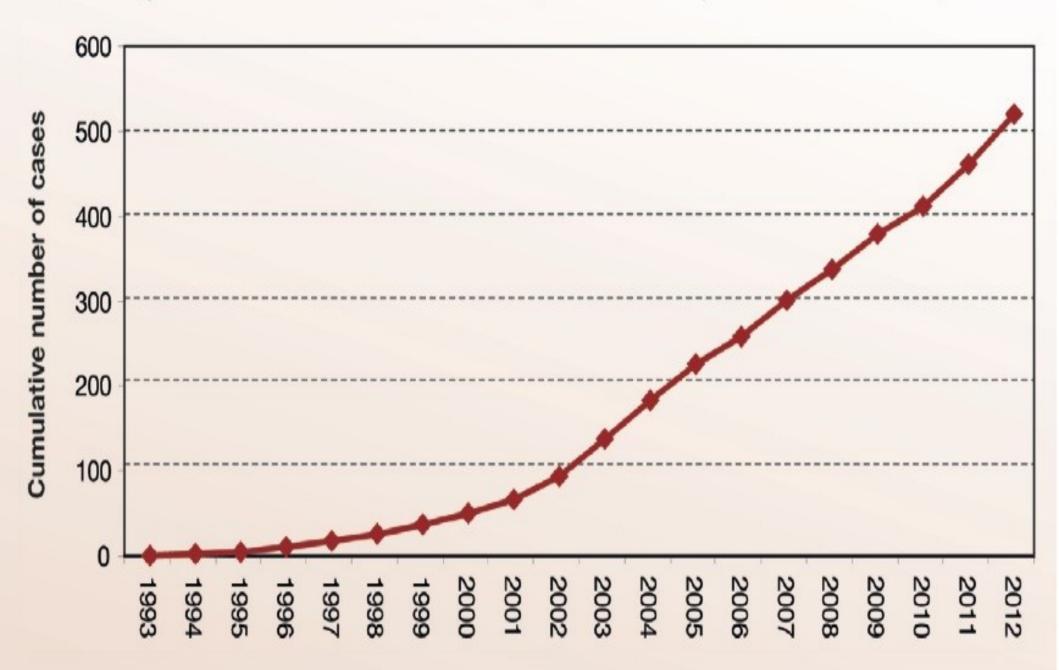


## What is on the agenda?

- Investment protection chapter
  - far-reaching private property rights
  - investor-state dispute settlement
- Globally, corporations already use these rights to fight policies to protect the public interest



Figure 2. Known ISDS cases (cumulative, as of end 2012)



Source: UNCTAD

## Why are we opposed?

- Socialisation of private losses & costs
  - taxpayer money used to compensate corporations for private losses from public interest policies
  - Legal costs average US\$ 8 million > can be much higher + are not always paid by losing party
- Takeover of democracy
  - Chilling effect
  - System is meant to 'lock in' existing societal relations + make change costly
- Incalculable risks under TTIP/TAFTA

#### Resistance

- Key issue uniting European groups in fight against TTIP/TAFTA
- Increasingly critical mainstream media reports
- Increasingly contested amongst EU member states & in European Parliament
- We can win this fight!



#### More information & contact

- "A transatlantic corporate bill of rights. Investor privileges in EU-US trade deal threaten public interest and democracy"
- pia@corporateeurope.org

