

THE GREEDY GATS!

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is currently orchestrating a grab by the biggest transnational companies (TNCs) from the world's most powerful countries through renegotiation of its General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The TNCs' goal is to control the most important services in every country in the world.

Think this is an overstatement? The former head of the WTO's services division admitted in 1997 that 'without the enormous pressure generated by the American financial services sector, particularly companies like American Express and Citicorp, there would have been no services agreement.'

New negotiations are underway to take it even further. A leak from the EC suggests they will demand that NZ

Abandon any vetting by the Overseas Investment Commission of foreign investments, including land

Abandon the right to prefer local buyers in any future privatisation, eg. NZ Post, TVNZ, Kiwibank

Abandon the limit on any single overseas company owning more than 49.9% of Telecom

Abandon the right to limit foreign ownership or contracts for water collection, purification, distribution, waste water, refuse disposal, sanitation

Abandon the right to prefer local owners or providers of maritime transport and port services, rail transport maintenance, air transport sales and ground handling

Abandon the right to prefer NZ researchers in natural or social sciences, including access to public subsidies . . . and more . . .

The US hit list is still secret. We do know that their targets will be much the same as the EU. A summary from the US says demands have been made in all 12 services sectors:

telecommunications	financial services
express delivery	energy
environmental services	distribution
education & training	lodging & tourism
professional services	computer services
advertising	audio-visual services

The US also says it wants governments to

Remove investment approval procedures;

Increase access for temporary services employees;

Give prior notice of any changes to national licensing procedures.

Past hit lists show the US will also demand that NZ ends

the new 'light-handed' telecommunications regulations

any remaining privileges for export marketing boards and companies like Fonterra

the policy of local content broadcast quotas (already watered down to voluntary quotas because of GATS commitments)

Who knows what Japan and other rich countries will want?

The current GATS negotiations are another secret WTO process where our government is asked to sign away FOREVER our right to decide what policies benefit New Zealanders.

ARENA says:

**We've already gone too far!
Stop the SECRECY! Stop the TAKEOVER! Stop the GATS!**