We, signatories to this letter, are deeply concerned that the ongoing negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union (EU) will fuel poverty, inequality and environmental destruction, and call for an immediate halt to the trade talks.

From 6-8 October 2010, negotiations will continue with a new full round of closed-door negotiations in New Delhi. The time to act is now. So far, negotiators on both sides of the talks have persistently ignored and sidelined analyses and protests by civil society, pointing out the detrimental impacts of the proposed FTA on people’s livelihoods and on the lack of social, ecological or gender-just economic development. Instead, the negotiating agenda generally reflects big business interests and demands.

Research suggests that just about every aspect of the negotiations, including the liberalisation of trade in goods and services, the extension and strict enforcement of intellectual property rights and the liberalisation of government procurement and investment will destroy people’s livelihoods and undermine their rights. The proposed FTA will also erode government policy space that is essential to manage trade and investment in the interest of pro-development, social and gender-just and environmentally sustainable outcomes.

Our key concerns are:

- **Extension and enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights** through provisions that go beyond what is required under World Trade Organisation agreements. TRIPS+ provisions such as data exclusivity, patent extension, and border protection measures would severely affect India’s ability to provide affordable medicines for the treatment of AIDS, malaria and cancer, not only for Indian patients but worldwide; they would contribute to hunger and malnutrition by denying small scale and subsistence farmers’ rights to seeds and sharing of knowledge. This would undermine people’s basic rights to livelihoods, to food and access to healthcare, education and research.

- **Increased market access for European businesses** would expose farmers, fisherfolk, street vendors and small businesses to crushing competition and lead to massive job and livelihood losses. In addition, tariff reductions would create a major loss of import duty income for the Indian government, with a potentially higher risk of further cuts in social spending including for education, health and food security.

- **Further liberalisation of investment** would incapacitate governments, removing policy tools that protect and build domestic industries; that foster domestic value-addition and shield vulnerable sectors of society specifically in times of crisis. For example, Indian street vendors and small shop owners would be pushed out of the market if European supermarket giants are allowed to enter the Indian retail sector. Liberalising foreign direct investment in land, fisheries and other natural resources will deprive millions of people of access to the resources they depend on for their livelihoods. Provisions on investor protection and on investor-to-state dispute settlement would grant corporations the right to challenge the Indian government and the EU over any regulatory measures that diminishes their returns.
• Further **liberalisation of financial services** would have a detrimental effect on lending to socially disadvantaged sectors like small farmers and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), and would lead to a dramatic decline in rural credit and services. Financial sector liberalisation would reduce government policy space to respond to financial crises and would further destabilise the financial system.

• Opening **government procurement markets** would undermine the role and scope of the government to advance equity and social justice by boosting domestic production, supporting SMEs and marginalised regions and groups.

• Seeking reckless **access to raw materials**, including a ban on export taxes and other export restrictions, would undermine governments' rights to regulate the use of raw materials and natural resources in favour of their people; it would exacerbate ongoing land displacement struggles and undermine people’s rights for their habitats and produce.

• The **lack of transparency, public debate and democratic process** surrounding the negotiations and the **privileged access granted to business interests** must be resolved. Up until now, the trade talks have been conducted behind closed doors, with no negotiating text or position made available to the public. Requests for access to meaningful information by parliamentarians, state governments and civil society in India and the EU have repeatedly been turned down. Instead, business interests have been granted privileged access to policy makers on both sides, allowing them to effectively set the FTA agenda.

Both the EU’s and India's current corporate-driven, export-oriented trade strategies are fundamentally flawed. These strategies prioritise the interests of global capital and profit maximisation over people’s right and livelihoods.

**WE THEREFORE CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE HALT TO THE FTA NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE EU UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DEMANDS ARE FULLY ADDRESSED:**

• The deal must not infringe on the policy space and regulatory capacity of governments to shape economic and social policies that serve the most vulnerable of their people and enable governments to intervene in markets for the public interest.

• The deal must desist from accelerating de-regulation of the kind that would increase market concentration while undermining access to essential services and public goods.

• Negotiators must end the privileged access of big business to trade policy-making in India and the EU.

• Negotiators must ensure transparency, public debate and a democratic process in relation to EU and India trade policy-making. They must release all existing information, including negotiating texts, and conduct broad consultations with the most affected groups in India and Europe such as workers farmers, street vendors, women, dalit, adivasi and people's organisations, including, cooperatives and trade unions.

• Ensure pro-development alternatives to corporate-driven FTAs that put sustainable livelihoods, food sovereignty, environmental, social and gender justice at the core. Such alternative approaches support sustainable, fair and peaceful relations between the countries and the regions instead of promoting competitiveness and a race-to-the-bottom in terms of working conditions, standards and wages.
First signatories to this letter (as of 3 October 2010):

1. Action Aid, Bangalore, India
2. Action Aid International
3. AEFIN (African Europe Faith and Justice Network), Belgium
4. Aitec, France
5. Akriti, Ranchi, India
6. All Orissa Roadside Vendors Association, Bhuvneshwar, India
7. Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
8. Attac France
9. Attac Germany, working group on world trade and WTO
10. Attac Spain
11. Attac Vlaanderen
12. “AUR” – The National Association of Human Resources Specialists, Romania
13. Aware Trust, Tumkur, India
14. Bangladesh Krishok Federation, Bangladesh
15. Bharatiya Krshak Samaj, India
16. Bhartiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal, Delhi, India
17. Bokaro Jila Dukandar Sangh, Bokaro, India
18. Both ENDS, the Netherlands
19. Campaign for Reform of the World Bank (CRBM), Italy
20. Caucasus Development Group, Georgia
21. CECI (Centre for Education, Counseling and Research), Zagreb, Croatia
22. CEEDECON, Jaipur, India
23. Centre for Education and Communication (CEC), India
24. Centre for Health Policy and Innovation, International
25. Centre National de Coopération au Développement (CNCD), Belgium
26. Chennai Hawker Federation, Chennai, India
27. Comhlámh, Dublin, Ireland
28. Consumers’ Guidance Society, Vijayawada, India
29. Corporate Europe Observatory, Brussels, Belgium
30. Corporate Frauds Watch, Vijayawada, India
31. CIVIDEP, Bangalore, India
32. CRTD.A, Lebanon
33. DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era)
34. Deep Welfare, New Delhi, India
35. Delhi Hawkers Federation, Delhi, India
36. Delhi Hawkers Welfare Association, Delhi, India
37. Delhi Vegetable Oil Traders Association, Delhi, India
38. Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh, New Delhi, India
39. Ecologistas en Acción, Madrid, Spain
40. ECVC (European Coordination Via Campesina)
41. EATGs, international
42. Entally Market Stall Holder Association, Kolkata, India
43. Environmental Study Center, Shivamogga, India
44. EU-ASEAN FTA Campaign Network
45. EQUATIONS, India
46. Fair, Italy
47. FDI Watch India, New Delhi, India
48. FEDINA, Bangalore, India
49. Federation of Associations of Maharashtra, Mumbai, India
50. Federation of Madras Merchants & Manufacturers Association, Chennai, India
51. Federation of Sadar Bazar Traders Association, Delhi, India
52. Federation of Trader’s Organization (F.T.O.), West Bengal, India
53. FIAN Germany
54. FIAN India
55. FinnWID, Finland
56. Focus on the Global South, India
57. Foundation for Social Research and Dynamic Action, New Delhi, India
58. FRAUENSOlidARITät, Vienna, Austria
59. GADIP, Sweden
60. Gender For Social-Economic Development, Georgia
61. Globale Verantwortung; Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklung und Humanitäre Hilfe, Austria
62. Haryana Pradesh Hawkers Samiti, Palwal, India
63. Hawker Sangram Committee, Kolkata, India
64. Hazard Centre, New Delhi, India
65. Heinrich Böll Foundation India, New Delhi, India
66. Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF), New Delhi, India
67. INKOTA-Netzwerk, Berlin, Germany
68. Intercultural Resources, New Delhi, India
69. International Federation of Hawker and Urban Poor, Kolkata, India
70. International Presentation Association, USA
71. Janpahal, Delhi, India
72. Kanpur Udyog Vyapar Mandal, Kanpur, India
73. KARAT Coalition, Poland
74. Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, Bangalore, India
75. Kerala Swathantra Matsyathozhilali Federation, India
76. KIDS, Shimoga, India
77. KULU-Women and Development, Denmark
78. La Via Campesina South Asia
79. Maharashtra Jan Jagran Manch, Nagpur, India
80. Madras Broadway Bustand Small Merchants Association, Chennai, India
81. Minchu Ideas, Bangalore, India
82. MISEREOR, the German Catholic Bishops' Organisation for Development Cooperation
83. Monitoring Sustainability of Globalisation (MSN) - Malaysia
84. National Hawker Federation, Kolkata, India
85. National Justice and Peace Network, UK
86. NOIDA Market Association, Uttar Pradesh, India
87. Norwegian Trade Campaign
88. One World Action, UK
89. Paschimi Uttar Pradesh Udyog Vyapar Mandal, Dehradoon, India
90. Pawanputra Rehri-Patri Khomcha Sangh, Delhi, India
91. Peoples First, Delhi, India
92. Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc, Philippines
93. Philippineburo e.V. Im Asienhaus, Germany
94. Poorvi Delhi Vyapar Bachao Morcha, Delhi, India
95. PowerShift, Berlin, Germany
96. Public Interest Research Centre, New Delhi, India
97. PWESCR (Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), New Delhi, India
98. Ranchi Footpath Dookandaar Sangh, Ranchi, India
99. Rashtriya Vyapar Mandal, Lucknow, India
100. Redi Patri Mahasangh, Gaya, India
101. Sagar, Delhi, India
102. Sahar, Delhi, India
103. Shanti Ranjan Behera, Lively Democracy, Kolkata, India
104. Shardhanand Oil Traders Association, Delhi, India
105. Siddhant, West Singhbhum, India
106. Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland
107. Swathi Mahila Samsth, Nanjangud, India
108. Timarpur Shopkeepers Association, Delhi, India
109. Third World Network
110. Tractors & Agricultural Parts Merchants Welfare Association, New Delhi, India
111. Traders Federation of Kolkata Municipal Market, Kolkata, India
112. Trade Justice Movement, UK
113. Traidcraft Exchange UK
114. Transnational Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
115. UNI, Bangalore, India
116. Udaan Trust, Mumbai, India
117. Udyog Vyapar Mandal, Gaziabad, India
118. Uttar Pradesh Udyog Vyapar Pratinidhi Mandal, Lucknow, India
119. Vegetables & Fruits Wholesale Merchants Association, Bangalore, India
120. Vidarbha Hawkers Welfare Association, Nagpur, India
121. VIP Market Association, Kolkata, India
122. War on Want, London, UK
123. WEED, Berlin, Germany
124. World Development Movement, London, UK
125. WIDE Austria, Vienna Austria
126. WIDE network, Brussels, Belgium
127. 11.11.11- Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement, Belgium

Individual endorsements:

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3. Anna Ockkina, IGSO, Russia
4. Anna Ridehalgh, Southampton, UK
5. Annie raja, NFIW, India
6. Ashim Roy, General Secretary, New Trade Union Initiative, India
7. Ashok Bharti, national Confederation of Dalit Organisations, India
8. Astrid Escrig, Spain
9. Belinda Funmaner CCCP, Philippines
10. Bonnie Setiawan, Resistance and Alternatives to Globalisation (RAG), Indonesia
11. Boris Kagorlitsky, IGSO, Russia
12. Brita Neuhold, Vienna, Austria
13. Carlos Ruiz, ATTAC Spain
14. Charles Hector, NAMM, Malaysia
15. Cecilia olivet, TNI, The Netherlands
16. Christa Wichterich (Dr.), University of Vienna
17. Dang Linh Tran, Vietnam Times, Vietnam
18. Dayaamani Barla, AMARM, India
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21. Dorothea Haerlin, ATTAC Germany
22. Emma Thanme, health workers
23. Eva Lachkovic, member of the City Council of Vienna, Austria
24. Fachru Noqrian, Institute for global Justice
25. Frederik Landshöft, assistant to the Green party, German Parliament, Germany
26. Gerard Karlshausen, CNCD/11.11.11.
27. Hassania Chalbi-Drissi, IGTN-Afrique, Forum Mondial des Alternatives (Afrique du Nord)
28. H. Mahadeven, Deputy General Secretary, World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), Asia Pacific Region, New Delhi, India
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30. Huynh cong, Consultant on development
31. Induk Lee, FKTU, Korea
32. Ingrid Bischofs, Cologne
33. James Pochury, Action Aid (India)
35. Jayce Naar, ACP civil society Forum
36. Jaybee Garganera, ATM, Philippines
37. Jean Grossholtz, Emeritus Professor of Women's Studies and Politics, Mount Holyoke College
38. Joshua Mata, Alliance of progressive Labour, Philippines
39. Kalyani Menon-Sen, independent researcher and feminist activist, India
40. Kannikar Kijintatchakul, FTA watch, Thailand
41. Letchumanan Aserpatham, Socialist party of Malaysia
42. Morgane Retiere, France
43. Magline, National coastal women's movement, India
44. Mariano Gonzalez, Ecologistas en Accion, Spain
45. Maroie Maderazo
46. Marzema Kisielewsa, EESC
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48. Nisha, Gurgaon, India
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50. Philip Kujur Coordinator BIRSA MMC
51. Prabir Purkayastha, All India Peoples Science Network, India
52. Prajeena Karmacharya, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague; The Netherlands
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55. Pham Hai Nam, Vietnam
56. P.K. Murthy, WFA/FMA, India
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60. Ritu Dewan (Dr), Professor, Centre for Women's Studies/Gender Economics, Mumbai, India
61. Ryu Mikyung, KCTU, South Korea
62. Sisaliao Svengsuksa, Laos
63. Song Sokheng, community peace building network, Cambodia
64. Spencer J. Pack, Professor of Economics; Connecticut College
65. Subodh Raj Pyakhel, INSEC, Nepal
66. Surender Tirkey Gen Sec JMACC
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69. Thomas Lines, independent consultant, Brighton , UK
70. Thorsten Schulz, FDCL e.V., Berlin, Germany
71. Tony Salvador, Ideals, Philippines
72. Uwe Hoering, journalist, Germany
73. Varsha Rajan, Focus on the Global South, India
74. Wim Vandevelde, Chair European Community Advisory Board (ECAB), Brussels Belgium
75. Xavier Dias Editor Khan Kaneej aur ADHIKAR
76. Zhang Tan, Lin Xiyao, Beijing NGO, China