Last Friday (30 October 2015) I participated in the panel: "Health, healthcare and healthcare services in TTIP" organized by CPME (Comité Permanent des Médecins Européens) for its members. Another panellist was Ms Susanne Løgstrup, (European Heart Network Director and member of the European Commission TTIP Stakeholder Advisory Group).

Overall, the participants of the event were either silent or sceptical with respect to TTIP. Most of the event was taken over by exchanges between me and Ms Løgstrup who presented TTIP in a rather negative way due to the "uncertainty of its consequences on the health sector". She made the following points:

- Transparency in TTIP is limited as the public opinion cannot see the US proposals. [On the margins of the event she also complained that TTIP advisors cannot access consolidated TTIP texts.]

- TTIP will cover health sector in many chapters and the consequences are either unclear or negative: TBT (potential limits on EU rules related to plain packaging), IPR (risks that TTIP will include TRIPS plus), ISDS/investment protection (the Commission improved the proposal but there is still a risk of litigation, no clear benefits of including in TTIP, Philip-Morris case.), regulatory cooperation (administrative burden).

- The LSE study shows that TTIP will have no value added for health sectors but it exposes the EU to many risks.

Other participants made the following points or raised the following questions:

- What is the definition of public services.
- What is the EU approach to public services in TiSA.
- What will happen with ISDS now.
- What are the consequences of the EP resolution on public services in TTIP.
- TTIP may lead to the deregulation of health sector.
- What is the EU's approach to ILO convention in TTIP.