



# **Submission of the**

## **New Zealand Council of Trade Unions**

## **Te Kauae Kaimahi**

**to the**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

**on the**

**Proposed UK-NZ Free Trade Agreement**

**P O Box 6645**

**Wellington**

**11 February 2019**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This brief submission is made on behalf of the 27 unions affiliated to the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions Te Kauae Kaimahi (CTU). With over 310,000 members, the CTU is one of the largest democratic organisations in New Zealand.
- 1.2. The CTU acknowledges Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand and formally acknowledges this through Te Rūnanga o Ngā Kaimahi Māori o Aotearoa (Te Rūnanga) the Māori arm of Te Kauae Kaimahi (CTU) which represents approximately 60,000 Māori workers.

## **1.3. Submission**

- 1.4. This submission is simply to reiterate our views which we have stated in relation to proposals for similar commerce agreements. We refer you to our most recent submissions to MFAT on the Trade for All Agenda and the proposed EU-NZ FTA<sup>1</sup>, and to Parliament on the CPTPP<sup>2</sup> and the TPPA<sup>3</sup>
- 1.5. We are particularly aware however that if these negotiations do proceed, they are likely to give rise to very sensitive issues. The U.K. is a major financial, educational, and commercial services centre. For example, Serco is a U.K. based services company which has been heavily involved in a number of roles in New Zealand, including in privatisation. Its failure in prison privatisation here is well known. The U.K.'s many privatised industries such as water, electricity and rail, despite being highly controversial in the U.K., similarly may lead to aggressive interests in these areas, bringing pressure to increase private provision of public services. Its large finance sector could bring further pressures to further deregulate or against strengthening regulation, which would increase dangers of financial instability. We would be very concerned if any of these risks were increased in an agreement.
- 1.6. Our opposition to ISDS is widely shared and well known. We support the Government's position of opposing ISDS in agreements and seek assurance this will be non-negotiable case in these negotiations.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.union.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/160304-Proposed-EU-NZ-commerce-agreement.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.union.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Comprehensive-and-Progressive-Agreement-for-Trans-Pacific-Partnership.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.union.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/160324-NZCTU-submission-on-the-TPPA.pdf>

- 1.7. We look forward to an open approach to these negotiations with ongoing and widespread public consultation, and regular releases of draft texts.