



## **EuroMemo Group conference 2015**

### **Workshop 5**

#### **EU external relations and the new trade agenda *coordinators: Ronan O'Brien and Catherine Sifakis***

With the WTO multilateral negotiations reaching a deadlock, increased geoeconomic and geopolitical rivalries and ever greater influence of multinational companies looking for new markets, have favoured a new EU trade agenda for some years now. The EU economic crisis, reinforcing the search for external demand, has accelerated this. The new EU trade agenda emphasizes bilateral trade and investment deals of which the TTIP is the most ambitious by far. While building on changes under the WTO, these go far beyond traditional trade deals to reach into many areas of domestic collective choices previously considered sovereign such as social, health and environmental practices, policies and protective standards, and in the case of the TTIP are to establish new institutions to control these where they are judged to affect international trade and investment. Papers are invited which critically assess these developments and their potential consequences, especially in the TTIP, for example for democracy, geopolitics, public services, local development, the possible links to the domestic deregulatory agenda (e.g. REFIT), or other issues.