

WTO rules against EU on hi-tech products: source

July 26 2010



Apple's Apple TV set-top box on display at the Macworld Conference and Expo in San Francisco in 2007. The World Trade Organization has ruled in favour of the United States, Japan and Taiwan in their complaint against EU duties on high-technology products, a source close to the dispute told AFP on Monday.

The World Trade Organization has ruled in favour of the United States, Japan and Taiwan in their complaint against EU duties on high-technology products, a source close to the dispute told AFP on Monday.

"I can confirm that the panel ruled in favour of the US, Japan and Taiwan," the source said.

The ruling was issued confidentially to the parties involved on Friday, according to trade sources.

It is expected to be circulated publicly at the "end of August or early September," said the source close to the dispute.

The plaintiffs had accused the [European Union](#) of violating the WTO's Information Technology Agreement by imposing duties on imports of products including television set-top boxes, flat-screen panels and printers with multiple functions.

Brussels countered that the agreement did not apply since the products in question had taken on multiple functions.

For example, the EU maintains that the flat-panel computer monitors cited by the [United States](#) should properly be classified as video monitors because they can also be used with DVD players and thus fall out of the scope of the WTO agreement.

Likewise, set-top boxes with Internet access should be seen as video recorders because they can record live television, the EU said.

However, the United States said the EU was "manipulating tariffs to discourage [technological innovation](#)."

The United States estimates that global exports of the affected [products](#) were worth more than 70 billion dollars in 2007.

(c) 2010 AFP

Citation: WTO rules against EU on hi-tech products: source (2010, July 26) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-07-wto-eu-hi-tech-products-source.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.