

Microsoft and Google make regulatory peace treaty

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"Our companies compete vigorously, but we want to do so on the merits

of our products, not in legal proceedings," a Google spokesman said in response to an AFP inquiry.

"As a result, following our patent agreement, we've now agreed to withdraw regulatory complaints against one another."

The US technology industry rivals late last year agreed to end all patent infringement litigation against each other.

A Microsoft spokesman told AFP that the decision to withdraw its regulatory complaints against Google around the world reflected "changing legal priorities" while the companies continue "competing vigorously."

Word of the accord came just days after the European Union opened a new anti-trust battle with Google, charging the US tech giant with abusing the dominance of its Android mobile phone operating system.

The charges, which come one year after Brussels took on Google over its search engine, come as a huge blow to one of the company's most strategic businesses and could change the face of the global smartphone sector.

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