

SORE POINTS

Here are some of the biggest business disputes between the United States and the European Union:

U.S. tax breaks for exporters U.S. steel tariffs

➤ The EU threatens to start imposing \$4 billion in trade sanctions unless Congress by the end of the year repeals \$5 billion in tax breaks that the World Trade Organization has ruled are illegal export subsidies.

U.S. steel tariffs

➤ A WTO appellate body is due to rule Nov. 10 on whether the tariffs imposed by President Bush violate world trade rules. If they do, and Bush fails to remove them, the EU could impose \$2.2 billion in sanctions

Genetically modified foods

➤ The United States and Canada are suing the EU over its moratorium on bio-engineered products.

Hormones in beef

➤ The United States has imposed \$125 million worth of tariffs a year on the EU to counter Europe's ban on beef with hormones.

Antitrust cases

➤ The European Commission is studying a response by Microsoft Corp. to charges it has used its near-monopoly in personal computing software to harm computers. Microsoft could face a maximum fine of about \$3 billion and an order to change the way it packages its Windows operating system.

Air passenger data

➤ The United States wants foreign airlines to hand over full data on passengers before they board planes in an effort to track down terrorists. The EU claims that's a violation of privacy.

Subsidized airlines

➤ The European Commission is crafting legislation to impose sanctions against non-EU airlines subsidized by their governments, singling out the United States.

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Under one proposal, foreign airlines would have to provide data on arriving passengers like these at Hartsfield International Airport. STAFF Graphic

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