

USTR Seeks Comments on WTO Dispute Related to EC Tariffs on Certain Information Technology Products

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Kelley Drye's [International Trade](#) Practice Group has prepared a Client Advisory discussing the USTR's May 28 action requesting consultations with the European Communities ("EC") regarding the EC's tariff treatment of certain information technology products. This request follows a long-time dispute between the U.S. and EC regarding the EC's alleged improper imposition of tariffs on products that should be afforded duty-free treatment according to the EC's commitment to bind its tariffs under the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* ("GATT 1994") and the *Information Technology Agreement* ("ITA").

The EC has imposed duties on set-top boxes with certain types of modems (e.g., Ethernet modems), set-top boxes with recording or reproduction functions (e.g., a hard disk or DVD drive), and other electronic products from the U.S. The USTR has invited comments on the issue on or before July 11, 2008.