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U.S. Web Gambling Restriction Challenged

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The [European Union](#) began an investigation into United States laws on Internet gambling after European betting companies complained that the laws were infringing world trade rules. The investigation could lead the European Union to file a complaint at the [World Trade Organization](#). Internet gambling is estimated to be a \$15.5 billion business worldwide. “The U.S. has the right to address legitimate public policy concerns relating to Internet gambling, but discrimination against E.U. companies cannot be part of the policy mix,” the European Union trade commissioner, [Peter Mandelson](#), said. He said he hoped the issue could be resolved amicably. European companies say a United States ban that forced them out of the American market discriminates against them in violation of W.T.O. rules, while permitting gambling by domestic companies.

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