



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10 JUNE 2004

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Microsoft Appeals Damaging EU Decision Which Would Undermine Innovation

Taxpayer Groups Urges Court to Side With Consumers by Overturning EU's Flawed Decision

WASHINGTON – Microsoft has filed an appeal of the European Union's \$613 million antitrust ruling, arguing that the EU decision undermined innovation and was not in the best interest of consumers. After 15 months of attempting to appear to negotiate with Microsoft, the European Commission formally adopted a fine on Microsoft of over \$600 million last March.

"The greedy governments in Europe handicap their businesses by taxing and regulating them to death and now they are going after successful American companies," said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **"Using false premises to justify antitrust, the EU has formally attacked American consumers, businesses, and shareholders by undermining Microsoft's innovation."**

A ruling against Microsoft on appeal could have wide ranging effects including the stifling of new software innovation. Microsoft has been a leader in developing innovative products which has boosted not only the productivity of the American economy, but the world economy. As is the case with the European Union, they have historically taxed and regulated companies and individuals that are successful. The Microsoft case is no exception as the stifling of new technologies will reduce productivity, employment, and income growth.

"The free market works and consumers have voted with their wallets for Microsoft products," continued Norquist. **"The socialist government regimes and losing competitors have lost in the market and are now seeking to use regulations and fines on a productive American company. And for that every consumer, business, and shareholder will be on the losing end of the stick if the appeal is rejected. ATR urges the EU's flawed decision be overturned on appeal."**

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jcollegio@atr.org.