

### **How will the United States retain access to dietary supplements?**

Patrick Lammin & Richard Waddington, "EU Gets Sanctions Go-Ahead Against U.S., May 7, 2003, web site: reuters.com/ "The European Commission gave the U.S. an autumn deadline to change disputed tax break laws for major corporations or face the threat of up to \$4.0 billion in sanctions . . .The ruling means the EU can set duties up to 100 percent on hundreds of U.S. imports . . .The two economic powerhouses are also at odds over other issues including U.S. duties on genetically modified foods.

**Editors note:** The United States has signed treaties such as NAFTA (North America Free Trade Agreement) with Europe. Also, the U.S. has binding agreements with the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Agreements (WTO). How will we retain access to dietary supplements under trade issues and sanctions when U.S. laws are already being "harmonized" to the European Unions? International pharmaceutical companies are pushing this move toward the European Union (EU) Vitamin Directive through the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to help gain this control - to harmonize all vitamins, minerals and herbs into a drug prescription category. (Please see, "Why Did This Happen?" in the legislative alerts for more details.)

Roy Watson, "France and Germany Dream of EU Embassies Around the World," web site: imesonlin.co.uk ". . .The European Commission represents 130 countries under the Franco-German plan, their remit would be broadened to represent the whole of EU. Britain also support this plan as the EU heads of government electing a powerful, long-term President . . .However, Gijs de Vries, the Dutch Government representative said, "It would lead to confusion, acrimony and stalemate. The future European President would be the most powerful politician in Europe, but would not be elected by the people or accountable to a democratic body."

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