

France's digital tax *riles* the White House

It can be horribly difficult to tax tech giants' profits. Rich countries have *haggled* over how to reform the global tax system, making progress in a number of areas, but not on taxing tech. Now France, it seems, has had enough.

rile 激怒

haggle 争论

On July 11th it passed a bill allowing it to levy 3% on the French revenues of big internet firms — those with at least €750m (\$844m) of revenue worldwide and €25m (\$28m) within France.

That has not gone down well at the White House, which says the measure unfairly takes aim at American companies like Google and Amazon.

Some think France's *unilateral* action is mis-timed. But all say they would prefer a global deal, which the OECD, a club of rich and middle-income countries, is trying to broker.

unilateral 单边的

France's action, critics say, could now undermine that multilateral process. What is more, a world in which different countries imposed different digital tax *regimes* would be horribly messy.

regime 政权; 社会制度

The European Commission has in recent years levied billions in fines against Google over anti-competitive practices. Facebook, too, could be hit for alleged privacy *breaches*. All this at a time when America and the EU are discussing a trade deal. Those talks have hit a wall. France has just added another brick.

breach 违背; 破坏