



European Union
Delegation to Vietnam

PRESS RELEASE

EU and Vietnam hold third round of high-level political consultations

Hanoi, 26 March 2014 - European External Action Service (EEAS) Chief Operating Officer David O'Sullivan met yesterday the Deputy Foreign Minister of Vietnam Bui Thanh Son for the third round of political consultations at vice-ministerial level.

The EU and Vietnam highlighted the important developments in bilateral relations over the past year, including the advance-implementation in jointly agreed priority areas of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), the significant increase in EU development assistance to Vietnam for 2014-2020 and positive developments regarding the ongoing bilateral Free Trade negotiations. The two sides also discussed the socio - economic political situation in Vietnam and the EU, including human rights developments, as well as their ongoing cooperation in migration, security and crisis management. The EU welcomed Vietnam's engagement on human rights on the international scene, recalling that its election to Human Rights Council last November carried international recognition but also responsibility to give example as promoter of human rights internationally but also internally. The EU also offered cooperation in the follow-up of the Universal Peer review and expressed concerns over regressive human rights developments in some areas, namely regarding freedom of expression and resumption of death penalty executions.

Regarding regional issues, the cooperation in the framework of ASEM and ASEAN (including Vietnam's constructive role as ASEAN's coordinator for EU relations) was discussed. An exchange of views also took place on the situation in the South China Sea, Thailand and Ukraine, among others.

The discussion on cooperation in global fora included exchanges on climate change and Vietnam's intentions to participate in UN peace keeping operations, which were warmly welcomed by the EU. The EU and Vietnam discussed the developing situation in Ukraine and measures taken by the international community. Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the dialogue and agreed to explore further opportunities for closer cooperation on a wide range of areas of mutual interest.

Mr. O'Sullivan also co-chaired on 26 March 2014 the ninth EU-Vietnam Joint Commission with Vice-Minister for Planning and Investment Nguyen The Phuong. The fourth round of the high-level consultations will be held in Brussels in 2015.

Background

In March 2012 the EU and Vietnam agreed to establish regular consultations on issues of global, regional and bilateral concerns on the basis of the new EU-Vietnam Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. A second round was held on 17 April 2013 in Brussels.

More information

EU-Vietnam relations: <http://www.eeas.europa.eu/vietnam>

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