



European Union
Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam

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PRESS RELEASE

European Union policies under expert review in Vietnam Series of learning events promote EU understanding in main cities

Hanoi - The Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will organize a series of workshops and public lectures in May, aiming to enhance understanding of the European Union (EU) and the importance of the Vietnam-EU relations. These learning events will provide better knowledge of EU institutions, its organizational structure, mandate and decision making mechanisms, as well as the guiding principles and values of the EU and its external action, in particular its relations with Vietnam. They will include two EU-affairs training workshops in Hue and Ha Long, seminars in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City and five public lectures in Hanoi, Hue and Ho Chi Minh City.

Speaking about the series of workshops and public lectures, Ambassador – Head of the European Union Delegation to Vietnam Dr Franz Jessen, said *"Training and knowledge transfer on European affairs will support a better understanding of the EU, its main policies and role in the world, as well as key insights on the EU relations with Vietnam. These initiatives will also support the strengthening of EU- Vietnam relations, bringing forward the partnership and making it more dynamic"*.

A public lecture *"EU's External Action after the European Parliament Elections 2014"* will kick off this series on 8 May at the EU Delegation. The lecture, given by Prof. Steven Blockmans, Senior Research Fellow and Head of the EU Foreign Policy Unit of the Centre for European Policy Studies will discuss on how the European Parliament Elections in May could affect the EU institutions, its policies and the role of Europe in the world, including dealings with key partners, including Vietnam. A similar lecture will also take place at Hue University the following week. A second public lecture, entitled *"European Security and Defence Policy: Strategic Challenges and Priorities?"* given by Prof. Dr. Sven Biscop of the Belgian Royal Institute of International Relations (Egmont) will be take place on 19 May at the EU Delegation. The lecture will address the foreign policy strategy of the European Union, which emphasises prevention, multilateralism and a comprehensive approach, including the 3D's: Dialogue, Diplomacy and Development. Attending these lectures will be diplomats, government officials, researchers and students from local universities, among others.

The series of events will continue with two training workshops in Hue (12-13 May) and Ha Long (15-16 May) for key government officials, academics, business associations and media entitled *"A better understanding of the European Union and the importance of the Vietnam-EU Relations"*. The workshops will review the current trends and policies of the Vietnam-EU Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) as well as current EU-affairs of relevance for Vietnam.

On the occasion of Europe Days 2014, the Delegation of the European Union, in collaboration with the Chapters of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will also organize on May 14 a seminar in Ho Chi Minh City to share with local businesses opportunities and challenges that the *EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement* will bring about. In Hanoi, two international seminars are expected to bring human rights experts together, including Dr. Annabel Egan, former Research Associate at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, to share *international experiences on the Universal Periodic Review Process and Vietnam's role at the UN Human Rights Council* on May 20-21. Additionally, two public lectures will feature Prof. Andrew Small, a transatlantic fellow with the Asia program at the German Marshall Fund, to talk on *"The Ukraine Crisis and the Response by Major Powers"* in Hanoi (26 May) and Ho Chi Minh City (28 May) under the EU Public Diplomacy Project.

Background Information: The EU-Vietnam Strategic Dialogue Facility is a three-year program (2013-2016) that aims to support Vietnam's development through the implementation of activities in areas covered by the EU-Vietnam PCA signed in 2012. Additional information on the events in <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/vietnam/> and <http://www.europeday2014.com>.

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