



Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam

15 September 2014

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Promoting a better understanding of the European Union and the Importance of the EU - Viet Nam Relations Training Workshop on EU- Affairs**

**Da Lat** – Under the overall theme “**A better understanding of the European Union and the importance of the Viet Nam - EU Relations**”, the Delegation of the European Union to Viet Nam is organizing a training workshop on EU-affairs in the Central Highland of Da Lat on 15-16 September, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as part of the EU-Viet Nam Strategic Dialogue Facility. The workshop aims at strengthening the knowledge of EU institutions, its organizational structure, mandate and decision making mechanisms, including the guiding principles and values of the European Union and its external actions and in particular its relations with Viet Nam.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador – Head of the EU Delegation to Viet Nam Dr Franz Jessen said *"Training and knowledge transfer on EU-Affairs will support a better understanding of the EU and its operations in the world and in Viet Nam and provide key insight on the EU's relations with Viet Nam. As an effect, these initiatives will also support the strengthening of EU- Viet Nam relations, bringing forward the partnership and making it more dynamic and concrete"*.

In recent years, the EU - Viet Nam relations have developed comprehensively and vigorously, especially with the official signing of the Partnership Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and the launch of a EU – Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement negotiations. The PCA demonstrates the commitment of the EU to forge a modern, broad-based and mutually-beneficial partnership with Viet Nam. In this context, it is essential for Vietnamese stakeholders, notably government officials to acquire the information of the EU's role and position in the PCA as well as the current trends and policies of Viet Nam-EU Partnership as well as the EU-issues of relevance for Viet Nam.

The training workshop was conducted by **Prof. Steven Blockmans**, Senior Research Fellow and Head of the EU Foreign Policy Unit of the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), a non-partisan think tank based in Brussels. The CEPS in Brussels is ranked among the world's top 10 think tank in the 'Global Go To Think Tank Rankings'. Blockmans is also a Professor of EU External Relations Law and Governance at the University of Amsterdam, a visiting professor at the University of Leuven, and one of the founding members of the Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER). Besides, there are also participation of **Mr. Tran Ngoc An**, Ambassador, Director General of the EU Affairs, Europe Department, MOFA, **Mr. Nguyen Manh Dung**, Former Ambassador of Vietnam to the EU, Belgium and Italy and **Mr. Nguyen Son Ngoc**, ASEAN Department, MOFA.

The workshop in Da Lat were attended by more than 70 participants, including officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other key Government ministry officials working on EU-affairs, representatives of provincial MOFA departments from more than 15 neighboring provinces of Lam Dong Province as well as local and central level representatives of academic/research institutions, business associations and media.

#### **Background Information**

*The EU-Vietnam Strategic Dialogue Facility is a three-year program (2013-2016) funded by The European Union, that aims to support Vietnam's development through the implementation of activities in areas covered by the EU-Vietnam Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed in 2012.*

**Media Contacts:** **Ms. Nguyen Lan Nhi**, Information & Communication Officer, EU - Vietnam Strategic Dialogue Facility, Tel: +84 04. 35 16 26 96 Mobile: (+84) 983 841 907 Email: [nhi.nguyenlan@EU-Vietnam-dialogue.vn](mailto:nhi.nguyenlan@EU-Vietnam-dialogue.vn)