



EUROPEAN UNION  
DELEGATION TO VIETNAM

Hanoi, 5 December 2014

## **Message from Ambassador Jessen, Head of the EU Delegation to Vietnam on the postponement of the execution of Mr. Ho Duy Hai.**

The Head of the European Union Delegation to Vietnam welcomes the news of the postponement of the execution of Mr. Ho Duy Hai. He calls for the suspension of this execution, and the establishment of a moratorium on the application of all executions in Vietnam.

The purpose of the State is to protect human life. Death penalty in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is an anachronism, and Vietnam should join the growing number of nations to abolish it. The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances, and has consistently called for its universal abolition. The EU believes that the death penalty is cruel and inhumane and that its abolition is essential to protect human dignity.

The European Union Delegation encourages Vietnam to join the majority of the international community, abolishing the death penalty. There are compelling arguments against the death penalty, notably that any miscarriage of justice, which is inevitable in any judicial system, is irreversible. There is a growing international consensus against the death penalty, and the EU hopes that Vietnam will follow the example of a number of other Asian countries, moving towards abolition through a moratorium.

A moratorium would be an important positive step.