

9th MAY 2014 EUROPE DAY EUROPE IN THE WORLD



Head of delegation:
Franz JESSEN



Vietnam

Priorities

Broaden and strengthen already very good relations with a key regional ally ("The EU's best friend in ASEAN").

Ratify the EU-Vietnam Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed in June 2012.

Conclusion of negotiations for an EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement to deepen and strengthen close economic and trade relations.

Support Vietnam's commitment to economic and political reforms, including governance, rule of law and human rights.

Top 3 Facts

Decades of conflict left Communist Vietnam impoverished, devastated and isolated **until well into the 1980s**.

Comprehensive economic reforms launched in 1986 have transformed Vietnam from one of the poorest countries in the world, with per capita income below € 80, to a lower middle income country within a quarter of a century with per capita income of € 860 by the end of 2010 and earned it a reputation as successful South-east Asian "tiger".

Following macro-economic turbulences the country is undertaking reforms (targeting also the state-owned enterprises, which still represent **40%** of economic activity) and economic growth in 2014 is estimated to reach between 5 and 6 %. With an estimated 91 million inhabitants as of 2012, it is the world's 13th-most-populous country, and the eighth-most-populous Asian country.

The EU (**including Member States**) is Vietnam's largest (grant) donor, its largest export market and second largest trading partner.

Did you know?

Vietnam in its first participation ranked 17th (out of 65 countries) in the OECD's 2012 PISA report (Programme for International Student Assessment), faring better than the US and performing on par with Germany and Austria.

Over 31 million people use the internet in Vietnam today, compared with only 2 million in 2000 and 80% of young Vietnamese have at least one social network account.

Vietnamese cuisine is widely considered one of the best in South-East Asia. The national dish is pho (pronounced fuh), a soup dish comprised of beef broth and thin rice noodles, topped with a variety of meats and served alongside a plate of fresh bean sprouts, Thai basil, chili peppers, and culantro (don't ask).

9th May Europe Day

Main links:

EU Delegation in Hanoi

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/vietnam/index_en.htm

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EUandVietnam>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/EUDelegationVN>