

POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE

Since 2012, the introduction of EU-VN Political Consultations at Vice-Ministerial Level have played an important role in their political relations, providing an opportunity to discuss bilateral and multilateral issues of shared concern.

Those high-level political consultations are reinforced by the day-to-day dialogue carried out by the EU Delegation and the EU Member States' Embassies on a wide range of issues. New issues of global significance are systemically integrated in these dialogues, including climate change, security and defence, non-proliferation, CBRN security, anti-terrorism and violent extremism, cyber-security, maritime security, pollution, illegal and unregulated fishing, illegal logging, human trafficking.

A major theme in EU-VN relations is the concern for Human Rights, where the EU remains actively committed to support Vietnam's transition towards an open society, based on the rule of law. The EU continuously advocates for the respect, promotion and protection of all economic, social and cultural rights as well as political and civil rights, with a particular focus on freedom of expression - online and offline, freedom of religion or belief as well as the abolition of the death penalty in Vietnam.

The launch of the annual Human Rights Dialogue in 2003 created an important momentum, allowing Vietnam and the EU to engage in a constructive dialogue where concerns can be both raised and discussed, in an open and constructive manner. Openings for mutual support are also key into this process. The dialogue is rooted in the EU's Guidelines on Human Rights and the EU principles on the promotion of Human Rights and Democracy worldwide. The 9th round of the EU-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue took place on 17 February 2020.

Additionally, the European Union is fully engaged in the protection of human rights defenders and in permanent contact with the Vietnamese authorities to improve the situation of each individual case raised to the attention of the EU.