

## **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 such as Human Rights, Sustainable Development, Climate Change and International Security.

The high level political consultations are reinforced by the day-to-day dialogues 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 as well as political and civil human 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 instrument that has allowed Vietnam and the EU to engage in a constructive dialogue during which concerns can be raised and mutual support provided. 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. In 2012, the Dialogue was up-graded to an enhanced and capital-based Dialogue. The 8th round of the EU-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue will be held in Brussels early 2019.