



## **Statement from the European Union and Viet Nam Domestic Advisory Groups under the EU-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement**

20 January 2026

Ahead of the 5th Joint Forum on Trade and Sustainable Development under the EU-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) on 22 January 2026, the EU and the Viet Nam Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs) held a DAG-to-DAG meeting on 20 January 2026 and discussed the following issues:

- The implementation and ratification of ILO Conventions 87, 98, 155 and 187 in Viet Nam and the EU.
- The sustainable dimension of the textile and garment sectors.
- The EU Deforestation Regulation and the involvement of relevant stakeholders in the EU.
- The difficulties for Vietnamese enterprises in meeting the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).
- A proposal to establish a Joint Technical Working Group to develop a sustainable aquaculture standard framework that aligns with Vietnamese conditions while approaching EU standards and animal welfare frameworks.
- The importance of the EVFTA and maintaining high standards in the current global context.

Future areas of cooperation between the DAGs may also include sustainable aquaculture, fisheries, the empowerment of women, and consensus building relating to the ILO, amongst other things.

Both DAGs reiterate their strong attachment to the DAGs and their mission to ensure more sustainable trade between the EU and Viet Nam, and they call on both Parties to the EVFTA to ensure that the DAGs' work is respected today and in the future.

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