



**1st meeting of the EU DAG and the Viet Nam DAG  
under the EU-Viet Nam FTA**

**Tuesday, 9 November 2021  
9 a.m.-12 p.m. (Brussels time)  
3 p.m.-6 p.m. (Ha Noi time)  
Virtual meeting**

**JOINT REPORT**

1. The EU and Viet Nam Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs) are respectively established under the [Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter](#) of the [EU-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement](#) (FTA).
2. The FTA requires the DAGs bring together independent representative organisations from the EU and Viet Nam, ensuring a balanced representation of economic, social and environmental stakeholders, including, among others, employers' and workers' organisations, business groups, and environmental organisations ([EU-Viet Nam FTA, Article 13.15.4](#)).
3. On 9 November 2021, the EU DAG and the Viet Nam DAG met for the first time in an online meeting, alongside of the Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development meeting and the Joint Forum for the domestic advisory groups of both sides and other stakeholders.
4. This DAG-to-DAG meeting allowed for the members of the DAGs to introduce themselves and their organisations, to discuss the work topics and programmes of the respective DAGs and to prepare for the Joint Forum with domestic advisory groups and other stakeholders, which would take place on 12 November 2021. The meeting was followed by a workshop on the greening of the economy and its impact on trade relations.

5. The Viet Nam DAG informed the meeting that it was newly established, with three organisations representing a balanced combination of social, economic and environmental interests in Viet Nam, and looked forward to welcoming more organisations in the near future. The Viet Nam DAG also shared that the mechanism of DAGs under the EU-Viet Nam FTA is new for Viet Nam so it needs more time to understand and explore how the system works.
6. The [EU DAG](#) by its composition reflects a broad spectrum of European civil society organisations and includes employers' and workers' organisations, business groups, human rights, environmental and animal protection organisations.
7. The EU DAG presented a number of topics of mutual interest to its members for further work in the months ahead:
  - Follow-up to the implementation of the TSD-chapter and the role of civil society in that regard;
  - Reform of labour law and the implementation of the roadmap;
  - Sustainable food systems and wildlife trade;
  - The relationship between EU and Vietnamese businesses in global supply chains – and global supply chains in the context of due diligence.
8. The Viet Nam DAG:
  - Updated information on the Labour Code following the reform for a new industrial relations system in Viet Nam, with multi-representative workers' organisations, collective bargaining and dispute settlement in the new context; the government is preparing the first report on the implementation of the newly-ratified Convention 98 by Viet Nam.
  - Shared information about the planned revision of the Law on Trade Unions to make it compatible with the Labour Code 2019; the roadmap of the revision has been transferred to 2023-2024.
  - Raised concerns about bad acts by buyers in the context of COVID-19, such as penalties for late delivery of non-essential products to the garment and shoes sectors.
  - Appreciated the EU perspective regarding the promotion of due diligence for better conditions for workers in Viet Nam.
  - Proposed more collaboration between business in the EU and Viet Nam on capacity building in global supply chains, with regard to due diligence. There should be capacity-building activities for business, labour and environment groups on due diligence as well.

- Presented on the topic of food security and wildlife trading, with regard to climate change and green growth.
9. The presentations at the workshop session on *The greening of the economy and its impact on trade relations* showed that the EU-Viet Nam FTA presents both challenges and opportunities for Viet Nam and the EU, especially when it comes to the greening of the economy. It was pointed out that Viet Nam does have elements in place, through the EU-Viet Nam FTA, to implement this. However, it requires Viet Nam's efforts in economic restructuring from the top to the bottom, in order to mitigate climate change and promote sustainable growth. It was also highlighted that the EU implements its trade policy at three main levels, namely, multilateral, bilateral and through autonomous measures, all of which carry some opportunities for climate- and social-related initiatives in Viet Nam. The European Green Deal is a framework guiding the EU overall strategy, including on trade. The EU is expected to publish new legislative proposals shortly with direct implications for its trade relations with Viet Nam i.e. on deforestation, due diligence and sustainable products. It will therefore be crucial to monitor these legislative processes closely, in order to fully grasp the opportunities they will hopefully provide to foster sustainable development in the EU and in Viet Nam.
  10. Considering that this was the first meeting of the DAGs, the exchanges were fruitful and constituted a good start to relations.
  11. Both sides decided to continue their dialogue as members of the DAGs and representatives of the independent representative organisations from the EU and Viet Nam in order to submit their views or recommendations on the implementation of the Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter of the EU-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement.
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