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**European Community
and
Viet Nam**

Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (with annexes). Brussels, 17 July 1995

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Only the authentic English, French and Vietnamese texts are published herein. The other authentic texts are not published herein, in accordance with article 12 (2) of the General Assembly regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, as amended, and the publication practice of the Secretariat.

**Communauté européenne
et
Viet Nam**

Accord de coopération entre la Communauté européenne et la République socialiste du Vietnam (avec annexes). Bruxelles, 17 juillet 1995

Entrée en vigueur : *1^{er} juin 1996, conformément à l'article 20*

Textes authentiques : *danois, néerlandais, anglais, finnois, français, allemand, grec, italien, portugais, espagnol, suédois et vietnamien*

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[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

COOPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

of the one part, and

THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM,

of the other part,

WELCOMING the increase in trade and cooperation which have taken place since the normalization of relations in November 1990 between the European Community on the one hand, hereinafter referred to as "the Community", and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the other, hereinafter referred to as "Vietnam";

RECOGNIZING the importance of further strengthening the links and enhancing the relations between the Community and Vietnam;

REAFFIRMING the importance which the Community and Vietnam attach to respect for human rights and democratic principles and the principles of the United Nations Charter and respect for national independence and sovereignty;

RECOGNIZING the steps taken by Vietnam to normalize its relations with all partners, both regional and international and underlining those measures of cooperation which could assist the process of regional cooperation;

RECOGNIZING the responsibility of all States, in accordance with basic international principles and practices to accept back those of its citizens who have left their country for one reason or another;

HAVING REGARD to the important new opportunities for trade in textiles and clothing through bilateral contractual rights and obligations between the Community and Vietnam;

INSPIRED by their common will to consolidate, deepen and diversify their relations in areas of mutual interest on the basis of equality, non-discrimination, mutual benefit and reciprocity;

RECOGNIZING the positive consequences of the ongoing process of economic reform in Vietnam to secure the transition to a market economy and the commitment to continue with this process;

DESIROUS of creating favourable conditions for a substantial development and diversification of trade between the Community and Vietnam;

HAVING REGARD to the need to uphold the principles and practices which promote free and unhindered two-way trade in a stable, transparent and non-discriminatory manner, taking into account the different economic conditions of each Party;

HAVING REGARD to the need to create favourable conditions for direct investment;

HAVING REGARD to the need to support Vietnam in its efforts to achieve sustainable economic development and to improve the living conditions of the poorer sections of the population;

CONSIDERING the importance attached by the Community and Vietnam to the protection of the environment on a global and at a local level and to the sustainable use of natural resources, and recognizing the linkage between the environment and development;

HAVE DECIDED to conclude this Agreement and to this end have designated as their plenipotentiaries:

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:

Javier SOLANA MADARIAGA

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain,
President-in-Office of the Council of the European Union,

Manuel MARIN

Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities,

THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM:

NGUYEN MANH CAM

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,

WHO, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1

Basis

Respect for human rights and democratic principles is the basis for the cooperation between the Parties and for the provisions of this Agreement, and it constitutes an essential element of the Agreement.

ARTICLE 2

Objectives

The principal objectives of this Agreement are:

- (1) to secure the conditions and to promote the increase and development of bilateral trade and investment between the two parties in their mutual interest taking into account their respective economic situations;
- (2) to support the sustainable economic development of Vietnam and the improvement of living conditions of the poorer sections of the population;
- (3) to enhance economic cooperation in the mutual interest of the parties, including support to the Government of Vietnam's ongoing efforts to restructure its economy and to move towards a market economy;
- (4) to support environmental protection and the sustainable management of natural resources.

ARTICLE 3

Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment

The Community and Vietnam shall grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment in their trade in conformity with the provisions of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) 1994.

The provisions of this Article shall not apply to preferences accorded by either Party under an arrangement establishing a customs union, a free trade area or an area of preferential treatment.