



EU Domestic Advisory Group under  
the EU-Vietnam FTA

**10th meeting of the EU Domestic Advisory Group  
under the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement**

**Friday 25 October 2024**

**10:00-13:00**

**Hybrid meeting via Teams – JDE 61**

**Interpretation EN-FR**

**DRAFT NOTES**

- 1. Adoption of the draft agenda**
- 2. Approval of the minutes from the 9<sup>th</sup> EU DAG meeting, held on 26 April 2024**
- 3. Confirmation of the member organisations' status for the present meeting**
- 4. Introductory remarks by the Chair**
- 5. Update on the EU-Vietnam FTA and on the implementation of the TSD-chapter and preparation of the joint meetings**

**Jorg Wojahn, TSD unit, DG TRADE**

- Successor of Ulrich

**Julia Töser, Trade relations with Vietnam, COASI coordinator, DG TRADE**

**Ulrich Weigl, EU Delegation Hanoi**

- Arrived in Hanoi 1 September
- 60bn of trade in goods between the EU and Vietnam, EU has an especially big deficit with Vietnam on trade in agri-food products
- Priority on trade agenda: Trade Sustainable Development (ILO Convention 87 - Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise), automotives, pharmaceuticals, market access SPS for plant and products of animal origin

**Benoît Lory, TSD unit, DG TRADE**

- Trade Sustainable Development (TSD) Meeting under the DAG will take place on 21 November in Hanoi. In the AM will be the business forum, and in the PM the civil society forum hybrid 3-5pm Hanoi.
- One issue is the IUU fishing situation, on which there has been a lot of engagement with Vietnam.
- First focus will be labour issues main concern with Vietnam, Ulrich Weigl met with International Labour Organisation representatives and Vietnam's Ministry of labour. The critical concerns as far as the EU are concerned are ILO Convention 87, the proposed decree of worker representation organisations, Vietnam's labour union reform. Vietnam position is that there will be a delay, with the package on these not being adopted before 2026



EU Domestic Advisory Group under the EU-Vietnam FTA

- More positive progress on the revision of the trade union law – more progress on the ground in relation to child labour and forced labour
- Vietnam has shown much more willingness to cooperate on the climate and environmental matters, with EUDR and CBAM, seeing these as an opportunity and willingness to work with the EU on the implementation of these, but mainly also looking for financing support

### Questions and Answers

**Romain LASSERRE - French Confederation Force Ouvrière (FO) / EUTC-** wants to raise the yellow card with Vietnam especially with regards to forced labour and child labour, and why is this issue not included in the TSD discussion

**Benoît Lory, DG TRADE**– two aspects of the yellow card, the yellow card of DG MARE where DG MARE is engaging in the discussions with the Vietnamese parties that has to do with reporting and more technical aspects. On labour issues (child, forced, and immigrant) this will be discussed in the TSD session, also looking at migrant labour, and have asked for a point on child and forced labour on the discussions under the TSD committee, so this is general and not specific on fishing.

**Johan Osinga – Copa Cogeca:**

Last time it was mentioned that it was necessary to have a discussion on how the Domestic Advisory Groups can play a role in relation to CSDDD (Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive), and in relation to EUDR there is a lack of engagement with smallholders especially in the coffee value chain.

### 6. Report from EuroCham's Green Economy Forum & Exhibition (GEFE) 2024

Jean-Jacques Boufflet, EuroCham, EU DAG member

## EU Green Deal Impact on Vietnamese Economy

The EU Green Deal presents both challenges and opportunities for the Vietnamese economy, particularly in areas such as deforestation, carbon border adjustments, and due diligence related to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria.

**EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)**

- Vietnam has shown a positive attitude in collaborating with the EU on sustainable practices, particularly in contrast to other ASEAN countries.
- Despite this collaborative spirit, Vietnam faces challenges, especially regarding compliance with coffee tree planting for Arabica production.

**Due Diligence Requirements**

**Supplier Data Integration in ESG performance reporting:**

Companies sourcing from Vietnam will need to integrate data from their suppliers into their own ESG performance reporting

**The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism**

Implementation on January 1, 2026, CBAM will affect Vietnamese exporters in carbon-intensive sectors, particularly affecting its key export sectors, , such as steel, cement, fertilizers, and aluminum.



EU Domestic Advisory Group under  
the EU-Vietnam FTA

**Event structure**  
Conference - Topics

**EUROCHAM** **EUROCHAM**

**TOPICS OF DISCUSSION**

<b>1</b> RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY	<b>5</b> CIRCULAR ECONOMY	<b>9</b> DIGITALISATION & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
<b>2</b> SUSTAINABLE FINANCE	<b>6</b> WAYS OUT OF THE WATER CRISIS	<b>10</b> STRENGTHENING GREEN HR
<b>3</b> DECARBONISATION IN MANUFACTURING & TRADE	<b>7</b> SUSTAINABLE FOOD & AGRICULTURE	
<b>4</b> GREEN BUILDINGS & CONSTRUCTION	<b>8</b> SUSTAINABLE TOURISM	

**EUROCHAM**

- 7. Report from the EU-ASEAN Business Council's visit to Hanoi**  
Noel Clehan, ESF, EU DAG member
- 8. Presentation on cats & dogs trade/consumption and position paper of Eurogroup for Animals**  
Carlos Jalil, Eurogroup for Animals, EU DAG member
- 9. EU international cooperation and projects in Vietnam**  
Audrey Maillot, Sector for Southeast Asia, DG INTPA
- 10. Update of the Desk study on "The relationship between EU and Vietnamese businesses in global supply chains in the context of due diligence regulations"**  
Antoine Oger, Director of Research, IEEP, expert and author of the study  
Sydney Vennin, FERN, EU DAG member
- 11. Preparation of the joint meetings 2024**



EU Domestic Advisory Group under  
the EU-Vietnam FTA

## Joint meetings 2024

### 21 November:

- **TSD Committee meeting** in-person in Hanoi (in the morning Hanoi time)
- **Joint Forum** in hybrid format (in the afternoon Hanoi time/morning Brussels time **09:00-11:00**)

*DG TRADE has booked a meeting room with a connection to Hanoi, but with limited number of seats available (16 to 20 seats maximum); the EESC has a meeting room available. Question who we can admit to that room.*

### 19 or 20 November:

**DAG to DAG meeting** (in the morning Brussels time/in the afternoon Hanoi time), provided the VN DAG agrees.

**Please give input to the first draft agenda for the Joint Forum and the draft agenda of a possible DAG-to-DAG meeting on 19 or 20 November in the morning!**

12. Any other business.