



STANDARDS AND VALUES

Promoting human and labour rights – protecting the environment

Open trade drives prosperity by deepening economic ties between business, consumers, workers and citizens across the globe. It also seeks to bridge differences between social and environmental standards and conditions in the EU and its trading partners.

As set out in the EU's [Trade for all](#) strategy, EU trade policy promotes our values, including high social and environmental standards, and respect for human rights.

We do this both through our trade agreements and through our trade preference programmes for developing countries.

The European Union's trade agreement with Vietnam includes a strong, legally binding commitment to fundamental human and labour rights and environmental protection. It is included both as an overarching principle in the agreement's preamble and more specifically in a dedicated chapter.

The agreement...

1. Protects labour rights and the environment by:



Committing parties to respect and effectively implement the principles of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) concerning fundamental rights at work, such as the freedom of association or the elimination of forced labour and child labour



Committing parties to effectively implement all ratified ILO conventions



Committing the parties to effectively implement international environmental agreements, including the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Kyoto protocol on climate change



Setting the basis for bilateral cooperation on the transition to low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient economies



Preventing a race to the bottom on domestic labour and environmental laws, by committing parties not to lower labour or environmental standards to attract trade or investment



Committing parties to undertake actions on issues such as the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife, biodiversity, forestry and fisheries



Involving civil society on both sides in the monitoring and advice on the implementation of the Trade and Sustainable Development chapter of the agreement



Introducing a tailor-made dispute settlement mechanism for the Trade and Sustainable Development chapter.



2. Focuses on human rights by:



Making improvement of human rights central to the European Union's engagement and dialogue with Vietnam



Affirming the EU and Vietnam's commitment to key international human rights principles and instruments



Establishing a link with the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Vietnam. This allows parties to take appropriate measures in cases of breaches of human rights, including the suspension of the trade agreement



Containing provisions ensuring transparency and inclusiveness in the decision-making process