

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC VIET NAM
ON
BILATERAL COOPERATION**

THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

both hereafter referred to as “the Participants”;

With a view to further strengthening and developing their mutual relations;

On the basis of the already existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Flanders and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on bilateral cooperation, signed on January 18th 2013;

With the desire to make a contribution to the strengthening of bilateral cooperation between the Government of Flanders and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;

HAVE COME TO THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

Section 1.

The Participants will establish a regular consultation mechanism to review bilateral cooperation and further develop existing collaboration.

Section 2.

§1. The Participants will further enhance and support their mutual trade and investment relations.

§2. For the Government of Flanders, this will be realised through the Flemish governmental agency Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT), which assists companies (and in particular Small and Medium Enterprises) from Flanders in their prospection efforts abroad and also assists foreign companies in setting up or expanding in Flanders.

The support provided by Flanders Investment & Trade for Viet Nam consists of:

- Pointing out trade opportunities on the Vietnamese and Flemish markets for companies from both sides;
- Assisting, on an individual, tailor-made basis, Flemish companies that are eager to start or expand their business in Viet Nam;
- (Co-)organising group events related to the Vietnamese market such as seminars, trade missions...;
- Helping out Vietnamese companies or state organizations and ministries that are looking for suppliers of technology or products or services, cooperation partners or investment opportunities in Flanders by providing information, setting up visiting programmes, business to business, supporting trade promotion activities, prospection and study of Flemish markets...;
- Collecting information on possible trade barriers with Viet Nam for follow-up through the existing EU channels.

Flanders Investment & Trade has a trade commissioner in Ha Noi, who acts as liaison officer between Vietnamese and Flemish companies, governmental organisations and institutions.

§3. At the request of Vietnamese governmental organisations or economic entities, the Government of Flanders will continue to exchange relevant information on interesting business and investment opportunities, to share useful contacts, market or sectoral information and to exchange experience in the field of promotion of international enterprise.

Section 3.

In the field of environment, the Participants will engage in joint projects and activities - within their financial possibilities - primarily addressing the following issues:

1. Environmental, climate change and water management policy and legislation;
2. Water pollution treatment, including production wastewater, water of polluted rivers and coastal sea;
3. Air pollution management;
4. Waste and soil management including sustainable materials management;
5. Nature and biodiversity conservation;
6. Development and transfer of environmental friendly technologies and renewable energy technologies.

Section 4.

§1. The Participants will encourage cooperation and exchange in the field of education and training at all levels, including primary, secondary, higher and postgraduate education, vocational training and adult education.

§2. The Participants will encourage educational and training institutions to take initiatives for cooperation, and will stimulate their respective universities and

university colleges to participate in exchanges and cooperation programmes in the framework of ASEM and EU cooperation.

Section 5.

§1. The Participants will encourage cooperation in the broad field of scientific research, technology development, creativity and innovation.

§2. The Participants will encourage cooperation and promote exchanges in order to enhance the technological renewing capacity of businesses (including SME's). The focus will be on the development of scientific and technological businesses.

Section 6.

In the field of youth work, the Participants will investigate and promote cooperation on the following issues:

1. The implementation of the World Youth Action Plan (WYDA);
2. A review of the status of the children rights in Viet Nam and in Flanders;
3. Any topics related to sustainability and the Millennium Goals.

Section 7.

The Participants will encourage cooperation in the field of agriculture, including high-tech and climate-smart agriculture and expand trade of agricultural, forestry and fishery products.

Section 8.

The Participants will promote mutual understanding and engage in cultural exchange activities.

Section 9.

The Participants will encourage cooperation and exchanges concerning research in the field of international law and the law of the sea.

Section 10.

The Participants will promote cooperation under existing agreements and Memoranda of Understanding between agencies or institutions, including:

- The Friendship Agreement signed on 23 February 1995;
- The Letter of Intent for the Period 2011-2013 signed in Ha Noi on 12 October 2010 between the Vietnamese Ministry of Transport and the Flemish Department of Public Works and Mobility;
- The Cooperation Agreement between the Vietnamese National Foundation for Science and Technology (NAFOSTED) and the Research Foundation - Flanders, (FWO) on the Executive framework for bilateral scientific research cooperation projects, signed on 7 May 2009, which has been renewed on 20 August 2016 with validity of 6 years.

Section 11.

§1. This Memorandum of Understanding does not bind either Participant to any financial arrangements other than those separately accepted in writing.

§2. This Memorandum of Understanding does not create any rights or obligations under international law.

§3. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect upon signature and replace the Memorandum of Understanding dated January 18th 2013.

§4. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time by the mutual written consent of the Participants.

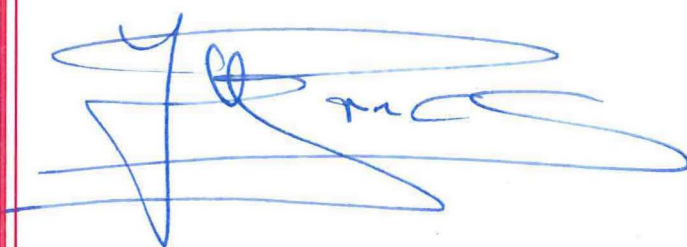
§5. This Memorandum of Understanding will be valid for a period of 5 (five) years, thereafter its validity will be automatically extended for consecutive periods of 2 (two) years. The Memorandum of Understanding will cease to be effective 6 (six) months after one Party receives a written notice of termination. However, the termination will not affect ongoing cooperation until its completion.

§6. Any dispute between the Participants related to the interpretation and implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved amicably by means of consultation and negotiation between the Participants.

The foregoing record represents the understandings reached between the Government of Flanders and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on matters referred to therein.

Signed in duplicate at Brussels on October 17th 2018, in the English language.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
FLANDERS**



JULIE BYNENS
Secretary-General of
the Flanders Department of Foreign
Affairs

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIET NAM**



BUI THANH SON
Permanent Deputy Minister of
Foreign Affairs