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Subject: Council Decision on the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between
the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
- Adoption

Declaration by the Kingdom of Belgium and the Kingdom of Spain regarding the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Belgium and Spain welcome the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and would like to reiterate the importance of the Trade and Sustainable Development chapter of the Agreement, including commitments on the fundamental principles and Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). It is indeed essential that trade agreements effectively contribute to sustainable development, uphold global standards and ensure a level playing field.

In this regard, Belgium and Spain welcome the ratification by Viet Nam of ILO Convention 98 on collective bargaining, that will finally enter into force on 05 July 2020, as well as the approval of the new labour code. Belgium and Spain will continue to monitor the implementation of the Trade and Development Chapter of the Agreement. Belgium and Spain trust that Viet Nam will sustain its commitment to ratify the remaining fundamental ILO conventions 87 and 105 and ensure their effective implementation.
