

Background note from DG AGRI
EU-VIET NAM FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

[24/11/2014]

EU-VIET NAM FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (Under Negotiation)

1. Parties and regional factors

- Bilateral negotiations between EU and Viet Nam.
- Viet Nam has GSP status. It is one of the 10 members of ASEAN. Viet Nam participates in the TPP negotiations.

2. Dates of negotiation

- Negotiations were launched in June 2012. Target date to come to a political agreement is Spring 2015.
- The 10th round took place from 6-10 October and the next intersessions will take place in Brussels (week of 24/11) and Hanoi (week of 15/12).

3. Chapters closed at technical level

- Customs and trade facilitation; Technical barriers to trade; Competition; Transparency; cooperation and dispute-settlements.

4. Particular issues in negotiation - agricultural trade

- If successful, Viet Nam could become the 2nd country in S-E Asia with whom the EU has closed an FTA negotiation.
- With regard to market access, the EU is looking for improved access and reduced/eliminated tariff and non-tariff barriers. In particular tariff line with important trade volumes and those with potential.
- Viet Nam's main interest is rice.
- Another key element is to obtain a better protection of a shortlist of EU GIs.