

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

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

**THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS (BELGIUM),**

both hereafter referred to as “the Participants”;

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

On the basis of the friendship links and the cooperation already existing between them;

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

In accordance with the law and regulations applicable to each Participant and international treaties to which Viet Nam and Belgium are parties.

**HAVE COME TO THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:**

**Article 1**

In the field of environment both Participants may undertake joint projects and activities - within their financial possibilities - primarily addressing the following issues:

1. environmental and climate change policy and legislation;
2. water pollution treatment, including production wastewater, water of polluted rivers and coastal sea;
3. waste and soil management including sustainable materials management;
4. nature and biodiversity preservation;
5. development and transfer of environmental friendly technologies and renewable energy technologies.

## **Article 2**

In the field of youth work both 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.

## **Article 3**

The Flemish governmental agency “Child & Family” (Kind en Gezin) is willing to share its experience on hearing and screening of young children, on multifunctional vaccination and questions related to adoptions.

## **Article 4**

1. Both 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.

### **Article 5**

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 shall stimulate their respective universities and university colleges to participate in exchanges and cooperation programmes in the framework of ASEM and EU cooperation.
3. The Participants will encourage cooperation in the broad field of scientific research and innovation.

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

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

### **Article 6**

Both Participants will promote cooperation under existing agreements and memoranda of understanding between agencies or institutions, including:

- the Friendship Agreement signed on 23 February 1995 and 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 2012.

## Article 7

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended or supplemented on the basis of the mutual understanding of the Participants, following an exchange of letters between them.

## Article 8

1. Nothing contained in this Memorandum of Understanding will be construed to place the Participants in a relationship of partners of joint ventures.
2. Nothing contained in this Memorandum of Understanding will be interpreted expressly or be implied as granting either Participant a right to a license to use the other Participant's intellectual property for any purpose unless separately accepted in writing between the Participants.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding does not bind either Participant to any financial arrangements other than those separately accepted in writing between the Participants.
4. 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.
5. This Memorandum of Understanding does not create any rights or obligations under international law.
6. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect upon signature and may be terminated by either Participant giving one month's written notice to the other Participant.

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

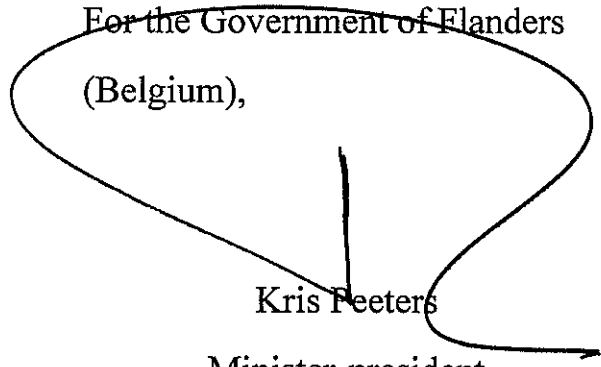
Signed in duplicate at Brussels on January 18<sup>th</sup> 2013, in the English language.

For the Government of the Socialist  
Republic of Viet Nam,



Pham Binh Minh  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Flanders  
(Belgium),



Kris Peeters  
Minister-president