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Basic information		
NLE - Non-legislative enactments	2018/0356(NLE)	Procedure completed
EU/Vietnam Free Trade Agreement		
Accompanying procedure 2018/0356M(NLE)		
Subject 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations		
Geographical area Vietnam		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 International Trade	 BOURGEOIS Geert	23/09/2019
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 WINKLER Iuliu	
		 LANGE Bernd	
		 KARLSBRO Karin	
		 BRICMONT Saskia	
		 LANCINI Danilo Oscar	
	Former committee responsible		
	 International Trade		
Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
 Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
 Development		04/09/2019	
	 TOBÉ Tomas		
 Fisheries		23/07/2019	
	 BARTOLO Pietro		
Former committee for opinion			
 Development			

Key events

17/10/2018	Preparatory document	COM(2018)0691	
14/06/2019	Legislative proposal published	06050/2019	Summary
15/07/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/01/2020	Vote in committee		
23/01/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0003/2020	
11/02/2020	Debate in Parliament		
12/02/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/02/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0026/2020	
12/03/2020	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
12/06/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2018/0356(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 100-p2; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 207-p4; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p7; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 091-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/9/00393

Documentation gateway

Preparatory document		COM(2018)0691	17/10/2018	EC	
Legislative proposal		06050/2019	14/06/2019	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report		PE642.857	15/10/2019	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE643.172	12/11/2019	EP	
Committee opinion	PECH	PE641.139	03/12/2019	EP	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE641.172	03/12/2019	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0003/2020	23/01/2020	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0026/2020	12/02/2020	EP	

Additional information		
Research document	Briefing	14/11/2019
Final act		
Decision 2020/753 OJ L 186 12.06.2020, p. 0001 Corrigendum to final act 32020D0753R(01) OJ L 213 06.07.2020, p. 0023		

EU/Vietnam Free Trade Agreement

PURPOSE: to conclude the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Viet Nam.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: on 23 April 2007, the Council authorised the Commission to enter into negotiations for a region-to-region Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

On 22 December 2009, the Council agreed on the principle of launching bilateral negotiations with individual ASEAN countries based on the authorisation and negotiating directives of 2007, whilst preserving the strategic objective of a region-to-region agreement.

On the basis of the negotiating directives adopted by the Council in 2007, and supplemented in October 2013 to include investment protection, the Commission has negotiated with Vietnam an ambitious and comprehensive FTA and an Investment Protection Agreement ([IPA](#)), with a view to creating new opportunities and legal certainty for trade and investment between both partners to develop.

Vietnam has become the EU's second biggest trading partner in ASEAN after Singapore and ahead of Malaysia, with trade between the EU and Vietnam worth EUR 47.6 billion in 2017. It is one of the fastest growing countries in ASEAN.

According to a study on the economic benefits to be expected from the FTA, EU exports to Vietnam are expected to increase by more than EUR 8 billion by 2035, while exports from Vietnam to the EU are expected to increase by EUR 15 billion. These estimates correspond to an increase, in relative terms, in EU exports to Vietnam of almost 29% and in exports from Vietnam to the EU of almost 18%. The EU's national income could increase by more than EUR 1.9 billion by 2035 as a result of the FTA, while Vietnam's could increase by EUR 6 billion over the same period.

CONTENT: the draft Council decision concerns the approval, on behalf of the European Union, of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Vietnam. The Agreement was signed subject to its conclusion at a later date.

In line with the objectives set by the negotiating directives, the Commission secured:

- the comprehensive liberalisation of services and investment markets, including crosscutting rules on licensing and for the mutual recognition of diplomas, and sectorspecific rules designed to ensure a level playing field for EU businesses;
- new tendering opportunities for EU bidders in Vietnam, who is not a member of the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement;
- the removal of technical and regulatory trade barriers to trade in goods, such as duplicative testing, in particular by promoting the use of technical and regulatory standards familiar in the EU in the sectors of motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, as well as green technologies;
- based on international standards, a more trade-facilitative regime for the approval of European food exports to Vietnam;
- Vietnams commitment to reduce or eliminate its tariffs on imports from the EU, and a cheaper access of European businesses and consumers to products originating in Vietnam;
- a high level protection of intellectual property rights, including with regard to the enforcement of these rights, also at the border, and a TRIPs-plus level of protection of EU GIs;
- a comprehensive chapter on trade and sustainable development, which aims at ensuring that trade supports labour rights, environmental protection and social development and promotes the sustainable management of forests and fisheries; and
- a swift dispute resolution mechanisms through either panel arbitration or with the help of a mediator.

The EU-Vietnam FTA and IPA include institutional provisions that lay down an implementing bodies structure to continuously monitor the implementation, operation and impact of the agreements. It establishes a Trade Committee that has as its main task to supervise and facilitate the implementation and application of the agreement.