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European Union

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam - Adoption Council Decision on the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam - Request for the consent of the European Parliament

Declaration by the Kingdom of Belgium and the Kingdom of Spain regarding the signing, 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 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 Organisation (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 passing of the resolution in the National Assembly of Viet Nam approving Viet Nam's accession to ILO Convention 98 on collective bargaining on 14 June 2019, as well as the debate on a new labour code. Following the signature of the agreement, 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.
