



2018/0356M(NLE)

17.9.2019

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on International Trade

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement
between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
(2018/0356M(NLE))

Rapporteur for opinion: Tomas Tobé

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the inclusion of a comprehensive and binding chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) with explicit references to Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. Urges the Commission to earmark specific funding for civil society organisations, such as the domestic advisory groups (DAGs), in order to fulfil the key objectives of the TSD chapter, which include an increased monitoring of commitments, the development of action plans for areas where concerns have been identified, and the triggering of dispute settlement processes in the event that action plans have not been respected;
3. Congratulates Viet Nam on ratifying six of the ILO's eight fundamental conventions, namely No 29 on forced labour, Nos 100 and 111 on non-discrimination, Nos 138 and 182 on child labour and, most recently, No 98 on the right to organise and collective bargaining; urges the Vietnamese Government to quickly ratify outstanding convention No 105 on forced labour and No 87 on the freedom of association, and highlights the crucial importance of ensuring that all of these conventions are fully implemented;
4. Welcomes Viet Nam's commitment to revise and quickly ratify its Labour Code, highlighting the importance of the promotion and practical enforcement of gender equality and female empowerment; reiterates that gender inequality should no longer be seen as a purely social issue, but as an economic one that presents a key challenge to attaining inclusive and sustainable growth; calls on the Commission to monitor developments closely and to keep Parliament regularly updated on the situation.