

## **Press statement of the DASE mission to Hanoi, Viet Nam (June 2023)**

From the 19 to the 21 of June, 7 Members of the Delegation for [The Delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(DASE\)](#) visited Viet Nam. The delegation was headed by the Chair of DASE, [Daniel CASPARY \(EPP, Germany\)](#).

DASE and the National Assembly of Viet Nam successfully held the 6th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting. The previous Inter-Parliamentary meeting was held only few months back, in December 2022, in a remote format. The Members of the European Parliament met with the Chairman of the National Assembly, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Industry and Trade, the Commission for External relations of the Communist Party, as well as other relevant interlocutors.

Upon the conclusion of the visit, the Chair of DASE underlined the importance of strengthening relations with the countries from Southeast Asia and especially with Viet Nam, in a complex and challenging global economic and security context.

“DASE’s visit to Viet Nam is a strong signal of our interest in consolidating the parliamentary dimension of the EU-Viet Nam relations. It is equally an indication of the growing bilateral agenda between Viet Nam and European Union, with relations covering presently a wide range of matters, going from political issues, to trade, energy, climate change, digital transformation, connectivity and foreign affairs and security aspects”, said Mr Caspary. “Also the visit of DROI and AFET is already the 3rd official visit of an EP delegation to Viet Nam.”

Viet Nam is an increasingly important partner for the European Union in Southeast Asia, in the context of the Indo-Pacific Strategy and of the EU - ASEAN Strategic Partnership. The EU - Viet Nam Trade Agreement (EVFTA) consolidated the relations and, since its entry into force in 2020, is a positive story from a trade perspective.

At the same time, the visit was also an opportunity to express our hope that, through this type of exchanges, there can be grater cooperation between the EU and Viet Nam in the foreign affairs area, in particular on topics such as the Russian illegal war in Ukraine. We underlined in all exchanges with relevant interlocutors that this is a time to defend the principles and values which are at the heart of the international rule-based order. We can not accept for the world’s affairs to be ruled according to the principle “might is right”. By tolerating such behaviours on the international scene, by not firmly condemning Russia, the long-term stability and peace in the Indo-Pacific is put in jeopardy as well”, continued the Chair of DASE, Mr Caspary.

The Members of the European Parliament had constructive exchanges with their interlocutors on a wide range of topics. These included: the recent developments in the trade relations, the implementation of the EVFTA (including regarding ILO conventions), the ratification of the EU - Viet Nam Investment Protection Agreement, climate change and green transition, the Just Energy Transition Partnership for Viet Nam, connectivity and the role of the Global Gateway. The security situation in the Indo-Pacific, and in particular in the South China Sea, was also discussed. The Members underlined the importance of using all mechanisms of cooperation with the EU in the context of human rights, as well as with relevant international organisations.

The Members of DASE visited the Hai Phong Industrial Zone to grasp the recent evolutions and perspectives of EU - Viet Nam trade and investment relations. They also visited the Ha Long Bay area in order to learn about the effects and fight against ocean plastic pollution and the work of the UNDP. The Members had the opportunity to witness the concrete benefits of the cooperation in the area of climate change and energy transition between Europe and Viet Nam through the example of a solar panel project in the Dong Xuan market.

Composition of the Delegation: [Daniel CASPARY \(EPP, Germany\)](#), [Marian-Jean MARINESCU \(EPP, Romania\)](#), [Angelika NIEBLER \(EPP, Germany\)](#), [Inese VAIDERE \(EPP, Latvia\)](#), [Łukasz KOHUT \(S&D, Poland\)](#), [Svenja HAHN \(Renew, Germany\)](#), [Danilo Oscar LANCINI \(ID, Italy\)](#).

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