

JOINT DECLARATION

CONCERNING CUSTOMS UNIONS

The Union recalls the obligations of the countries that have established a customs union with the Union to align their trade regime to that of the Union and, for certain of them, to conclude preferential agreements with countries that have preferential agreements with the Union.

In this context, the Parties note that Viet Nam shall favourably consider starting negotiations with those countries:

- (a) which have established a customs union with the Union, and
- (b) whose products do not benefit from the tariff concessions under this Agreement,

with a view to concluding bilateral agreements establishing free trade areas in accordance with Article XXIV of GATT 1994. Viet Nam shall favourably consider starting negotiations as soon as possible with a view to having those agreements entering into force as soon as possible after the entry into force of this Agreement.

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