

# EU and Vietnam sign new health agreement

**Brussels, 6<sup>th</sup> December**

The European Union and the Government of Vietnam have today signed a new financing agreement for the "**Health Sector Policy Support Programme**", in the presence of Mr Nguyen Sinh Hung, Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam and Trade Commissioner, Karel De Gucht.

The Financing Agreement, for **€39.25 million**, was signed by Mr Vuong Dinh Hue, Minister of Finance, representing the Vietnamese Government, and Mr Dirk Meganck, Director for Asia, EuropeAid Development and Cooperation Directorate General, acting on behalf of the European Commission.

As Vietnam has become a middle income country, the expectations of its citizens regarding the quality of health services has increased, as well as the potential to respond to this expectation.

This programme, with a contribution of €39.25 M, is therefore very timely and ambitious. It aims at supporting Vietnam's efforts to improve access to public health services and to increase the quality of service delivery, especially to the poor and most vulnerable, through a **more effective, efficient and equitable health system**.

With its specific focus on the implementation of **Vietnam five-year health plan** (2011 –2015), the programme is completely aligned with Vietnam's health policy and is supporting the sector's reform. It intends to contribute to:

- 1) strengthening the stewardship and regulatory functions of the Ministry of Health;
- 2) promoting a more equitable and efficient health financing;
- 3) responding better to increasing demands of health promotion, prevention and care;
- 4) improving the access to pharmaceuticals, supply of vaccines and other technologies.

For further information, contact [Delegation-vietnam@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Delegation-vietnam@eeas.europa.eu)