

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001447/26  
to the Commission**

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(9 April 2026)

*Subject:* Repression of human rights advocates and politically motivated prosecutions in Vietnam

In Vietnam, the Communist Party is responsible for serious violations of fundamental rights, vigorously suppressing freedom of expression and severely punishing opponents who challenge the party's monopoly on power, including by means of imprisonment or extraterritorial abductions.

However, Article 1 of the framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation (PCA) between the European Union and Vietnam states that respecting human rights constitutes an 'essential element' of the agreement. Additionally, Chapter 13 of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (EVFTA) includes an obligation for the parties to implement international fundamental rights standards and to refrain from weakening their protection for commercial reasons. Lastly, in the event of a serious violation of an essential element of the agreement, Article 57 of the PCA allows for the adoption of appropriate measures, up to and including a suspension of the EVFTA.

In light of the above:

1. What action does the Commission intend to take to ensure that Vietnam complies with its human rights obligations?
2. Does it plan to use the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime to target those identified as responsible for extraterritorial abductions?
3. Does it intend to activate the mechanisms provided for in the PCA, including suspending the EVFTA, on the grounds that respect for human rights constitutes an essential element of bilateral relations?

Submitted: 9.4.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission**  
(10 July 2026)

The Commission shares the European Parliament's concern about human rights violations in Viet Nam. The upgrade of EU-Viet Nam relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership <sup>(1)</sup> in January 2026 reaffirms the importance of addressing these concerns.

The EU remains committed to promoting human rights in Viet Nam through the partnership and cooperation agreement (PCA) <sup>(2)</sup> while the EU-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) <sup>(3)</sup> contributes specifically through its provisions on labour and environmental standards.

The EU engages with Vietnamese authorities through high-level dialogues, including the annual EU-Viet Nam Human Rights Dialogue. The recent Domestic Advisory Group meeting under the EVFTA also discussed labour standards and broader human rights concerns <sup>(4)</sup>.

The EU continues to monitor progress towards International Labour Organisation Convention 87 ratification, urging Viet Nam to fulfil its commitments.

The EU takes its commitments under the PCA and EVFTA seriously, and will consider the mechanisms provided therein, where necessary.

The EU advocates at every opportunity, publicly and privately, for the release of political prisoners, protection of human rights defenders, and promotion of fundamental freedoms.

The EU will continue to engage with Vietnamese authorities, civil society, and international partners to ensure human rights remain central to the bilateral relationship.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/01/29/joint-statement-on-upgrading-relations-between-the-european-union-and-viet-nam-to-a-comprehensive-strategic-partnership/>.

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/viet-nam\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/viet-nam_en).

<sup>(3)</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/viet-nam/eu-viet-nam-agreements\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/viet-nam/eu-viet-nam-agreements_en).

<sup>(4)</sup> <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/agenda/our-events/events/4th-dag-dag-meeting-under-eu-viet-nam-fta>.