

Bernd Lange
Member of the European Parliament
Chair of the Committee on International Trade
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60,
1000 Brussels

Brussels, 3 September 2019

Dear Mr Lange,

On behalf of the American Chamber of Commerce to the EU (AmCham EU), I would like to congratulate you on your re-election as Chair of the Committee on International Trade in the European Parliament. Trade continues to be a key pillar for jobs, growth and prosperity inside and outside the EU, but also an important driver of sustainable development. We wish you all success in your position and look forward to our continued collaboration.

One of the first tests for the Committee on International Trade in this new mandate will be to ratify the EU-Viet Nam free trade agreement (FTA). AmCham EU welcomes the signature of the EU-Viet Nam Free Trade and Investment Protection Agreements by the EU and Viet Nam in June this year, and we hope that the European Parliament will soon be able to give its approval to this important agreement.

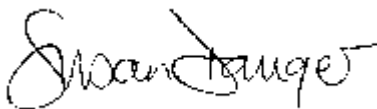
The EU-Viet Nam FTA is the most ambitious and comprehensive FTA the EU has ever concluded with a developing country. It sends the important signal that the EU and Viet Nam continue to stand for rules-based trade, that the EU remains open for business, and that the EU and Viet Nam aim to deliver on free trade when others hesitate.

Companies of all sizes established in the EU and EU consumers will benefit from this comprehensive agreement through increased trade flows and economic growth, boosting innovation and job creation, as well as continuing to open up markets. This FTA will help Viet Nam to pursue its successful integration as a global market economy, as well as to strengthen its commitment to sustainable development.

As AmCham EU, we call on the Committee on International Trade to issue a recommendation advising the Plenary to approve the EU-Viet Nam FTA as soon as possible. Such recommendation would demonstrate the EU's commitment to free trade in times of increasing global protectionism.

In the meantime, AmCham EU and its members remain available for further discussions.

Yours sincerely,



Susan Danger
CEO
AmCham EU