



June 10, 2008

H.E. Mr. Vu Van Ninh  
Ministry of Finance  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
28 Tran Hung Dao Street  
Ha Noi

Your Excellency Mr. Ninh,

The European Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam would like to convey its compliments to Your Excellency.

Established in 1998, the European Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (EuroCham) aims to promote and increase cooperation between Vietnam and the EU Member States, to foster increased understanding between Vietnamese and European businesspeople, to raise the profile of Vietnam in the EU business community and the profile of the EU in the Vietnamese business community, and to assist the development of the Vietnamese economy through the improvement of the business environment for the benefit of all players .

Celebrating our tenth year of operations in 2008, EuroCham is today the leading representative of European businesses in Vietnam, with over 600 member companies, including many of the leading global enterprises active in Vietnam.

To best leverage our members' expertise, EuroCham convenes a number of Sector Committees bringing together member companies with experience in specific sectors to make policy recommendations for the improvement of the legislative environment in which they operate.

I write to you today to respectfully offer our views and the recommendations of the EuroCham Wine and Spirits Sector Committee (W&S SC) as regards proposed changes to Vietnam's excise tax system for distilled spirits products.

EuroCham and the W&S SC would like to offer our sincere appreciation for the Ministry of Finance's considerable efforts to address the specific concerns of the Wine and Spirits industry regarding the excise tax regime for spirits. In particular, we welcome Vietnam's commitment to adopt a single excise tax for distilled spirits with an alcohol content of 20% abv. or higher within three years of the date of Vietnam's accession to the WTO.

We now understand that the Government of Vietnam is currently considering various proposals to modify the excise tax system in order to best align it with the nation's WTO commitments and in light of this process, we would like to respectfully submit our members' recommendations for your consideration in the attached position paper.

We thank you very much for the opportunity to provide you with our views for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,  
For and on behalf of  
The European Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam

Alain Cany  
Chairman

Enclosed documents:

EuroCham W&S SC position paper on Internal Taxation-Special Consumption Tax (SCT) – English;  
EuroCham W&S SC position paper on Internal Taxation-Special Consumption Tax (SCT) - Vietnamese

Cc:

Tax Policy Department, Ministry of Finance;  
Delegation of the European Commission to Vietnam