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## PRESS RELEASE

### THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG GRANT OVER FIVE MILLION EURO TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CURATIVE CARE AND PREVENTIVE MEDICAL SERVICES AT GRASSROOTS LEVELS

In order to improve curative care and preventive medical services in Vietnamese communes and districts, the European Union (EU) Delegation and the Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Vietnam today handed medical equipment and instruments worth of **5,182,566 EUR (equivalent to 140 billion VNĐ)** over to the Ministry of Health. The procurement of these equipments is one of the outputs of the Health Sector Capacity Support Project (HSCSP) jointly funded by the EU and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

At the ceremony, Ambassador - Head of the EU Delegation, Mr. Franz Jessen stressed the EU long term interest (since 1996) in Viet Nam's health sector and affirmed EU commitment to support the health sector in the coming years through budget support operations. He said that *"The EU considers that Vietnam, as a middle income country should ensure that its citizens have an equal and fair access to quality medical services throughout the country. Therefore, the EU will, in the future, concentrate its support to ensuring better quality of services at village, commune and district levels in poorest Provinces"*.

Associate Professor - Dr. Nguyen Thi Kim Tien, Minister of Health, expressed her sincere thanks to both donors for their support and emphasized that, *"in the context of Vietnam's health sector is focusing on reforms to improve the service quality, especially the quality of health services at the grassroots level, the support of medical equipment of the European Union and the government of Luxembourg is a valuable contribution to the health sector of Viet Nam in the efforts to further enhance the service quality and expand equitable access to essential health care services all over the country"*.

The donated equipment includes imaging diagnostic systems, laboratory machine and essential medical instruments, certified as ISO 9001 and CE (Conformance de Europe). The equipment will be delivered to the service delivery units of **three pilot provinces of Bac Ninh, Bac Giang and Ha Nam, as well as nine partnering provinces of Bắc Kạn, Yên Bái, Điện Biên, Sơn La,**

**Lai Châu, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Vĩnh Long and Kiên Giang.** Following the delivery, a number of clinical and para-clinical training courses will be designed to ensure proper management of the equipment, aiming to improve the quality of essential health offered to patients.

### **Background information**

**HSCSP:** Health is one of the only two focal sectors receiving continued support from the EU. The Health Sector Capacity Support Project (HSCSP) was signed in 2009 with the total budget of **14.75 million EUR (400 billion VNĐ)**, of which the Luxembourg Government contributed **2 million EUR (55 billion VNĐ)**. The project aims at strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Health, the Provincial Department of Health, and key sectorial stakeholders in the areas of sector policy (including health financing), planning and budgeting, management and regulation in the health sector with main focus on primary health care and preventive medicine.

The rationale behind these specific objectives is to contribute to government-led reforms towards improved sector management to ensure equitable access to quality services for those disadvantaged segments of the population.

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