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**EU, VIETNAM TO AGREE TO BOOST WORK ON MINERALS, CHIPS AND 5G, SAYS DRAFT DOCUMENT**

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The Straits Times (28 January 2026)

The European Union and Vietnam want to boost trade and investment in critical minerals, semiconductors and infrastructure, according to a draft joint statement seen by Reuters that is set to be adopted on Jan 29 as the two sides upgrade diplomatic relations.

The eight-page document, still subject to change, says the EU will also explore the possible transfer of defence technology to Hanoi, as both sides seek closer cooperation on trusted telecoms networks – at a time when Chinese companies have won contracts in Vietnams 5G development.

The statement is scheduled to be signed when European Council president Antonio Costa meets Vietnams leaders in Hanoi on Jan 29, days after the ruling Communist Party reappointed Mr To Lam as the countrys top leader.

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