

# 06

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# Cuadernos de Gibraltar

## Gibraltar Reports



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## DOCUMENTACIÓN IV. UNITED KINGDOM & GIBRALTAR – COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESS RELEASES (2024-2025)

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<sup>1</sup> PhD Candidates in Public International Law and International Relations, University of Cádiz.

<sup>2</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – United Kingdom Government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/progress-of-uk-eu-agreement-in-respect-of-gibraltar-joint-statement-19-september>

<sup>3</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – United Kingdom Government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/agreement-protects-sovereignty-and-economic-security-of-gibraltar>

<sup>4</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – Gibraltar Government: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/top-level-treaty-meeting-in-brussels-2532024-9801>

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<sup>5</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – Gibraltar Government: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/uk-and-gibraltar-ministers-discuss-treaty-work-and-contingency-planning-3032024-9861>

<sup>6</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – Gibraltar Government: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/joint-statement-on-high-level-meeting-in-brussels-3482024-9910>

<sup>7</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – Gibraltar Government: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/unauthorized-guardia-civil-vessel-activity-within-british-gibraltar-territorial-waters-4672024-10039>

<sup>8</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – Gibraltar Government: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/treaty-discussions-with-new-foreign-secretary-5792024-10168>

<sup>9</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – Gibraltar Government: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/chief-minister-visits-la-linea-8492024-10474>

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<sup>11</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – Gibraltar Government: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/hm-government-of-gibraltar-welcomes-european-commissions-proposal-to-remove-gibraltar-from-eu-aml-list-4312025-10958>

<sup>12</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – Gibraltar Government: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/uk-eu-gibraltar-trade-and-mobility-agreement-4342025-10961>

DOCUMENTO 12. Chief Minister's address to the Committee of 24 the United Nations - 450/2025: 18 June 2025<sup>13</sup>.

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DOCUMENTO 15. HM Government of Gibraltar Welcomes Historic Gathering of All Living Chief Ministers at Campo de Gibraltar Commemoration - 695/2025: 26 September 2025<sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – Gibraltar Government: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/chief-ministers-address-to-the-committee-of-24-the-united-nations-june-2025-4502025-10979>

<sup>14</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – Gibraltar Government: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/cm-statement-to-parliament-on-the-treaty-4652025-10995>

<sup>15</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – Gibraltar Government: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/gibraltar-officially-removed-from-eu-high-risk-third-country-list-5732025-11115>

<sup>16</sup> FUENTE/SOURCE – Gibraltar Government: <https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/hm-government-of-gibraltar-welcomes-historic-gathering-of-all-living-chief-ministers-at-campo-de-gibraltar-commemoration-6952025-11257>

Press release

## Progress of UK-EU agreement in respect of Gibraltar: joint statement, 19 September 2024

A joint statement from the UK, European Commission, Spain and Gibraltar following talks in Brussels.

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From: **Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office**  
**(/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office)** and **The Rt Hon David Lammy MP** **(/government/people/david-lammy)**

Published 19 September 2024



European Commission Executive Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič, Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs José Manuel Albares, UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy and Chief Minister of Gibraltar Fabian Picardo in Brussels.

European Commission Executive Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič, Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs José Manuel Albares and UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy, together with the Chief Minister of Gibraltar Fabian Picardo, met in Brussels on Thursday 19 September.

This was the third meeting at political level and the first one in this format under the new UK government.

Building on significant progress of 12 April and 16 May, today's discussions were constructive and productive, resulting in further progress on the complex issues of negotiations, namely in the area of people and goods.

The meeting reaffirmed their shared commitment to concluding an EU-UK Agreement to bring confidence, legal certainty, and stability to the people of the whole region, while safeguarding all parties' legal positions.

They all agreed to remain in constant contact, with teams to work closely and intensely on outstanding areas.

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Published 19 September 2024



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Press release

## Agreement protects sovereignty and economic security of Gibraltar

Political agreement reached that will protect British sovereignty, UK military autonomy and secure Gibraltar's economic future.

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From: **Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office**  
([/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office](https://government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office)) and **The Rt Hon David Lammy MP** ([/government/people/david-lammy](https://government/people/david-lammy))

Published 11 June 2025

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- UK, alongside the Government of Gibraltar, reaches a political agreement with the EU which will protect British sovereignty, UK military autonomy and secure Gibraltar's economic future
- agreement resolves the last major unresolved issue from Brexit, avoiding the need for checks on people and goods crossing the Gibraltar-Spain border to support prosperity in the region

- Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, central to the agreement as Foreign Secretary visits Gibraltar this morning

The UK government has today [11 June] reached a political agreement with the EU which will secure Gibraltar's economy, provide certainty for people and businesses in Gibraltar and protect British sovereignty.

This government inherited a situation which left Gibraltar's economy and way of life under threat. Gibraltar was not included in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement negotiated by the previous UK government following Brexit. Instead, the previous government began negotiations in 2021 to reach a deal which has remained unresolved until today.

Approximately 15,000 people – over half of Gibraltar's workforce – cross the land border between Spain and Gibraltar every day. Without a new agreement, the EU's incoming system of entry and exit controls would have introduced a 'hard border' under which every individual passport was checked.

Today's agreement provides a practical solution to avoid the need for onerous checks and long delays at the border which would have proved ruinous for Gibraltar's economy – costing hundreds of millions a year and placing pressure on the UK taxpayer for fiscal support, underlining the government's commitment to economic stability under the [Plan for Change](https://www.gov.uk/missions) (<https://www.gov.uk/missions>).

The Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, has been central to the negotiations from the start and today's agreement has his full backing.

Foreign Secretary David Lammy said:

"This government inherited a situation from the last government which put Gibraltar's economy and way of life under threat. Today's breakthrough delivers a practical solution after years of uncertainty.

"Alongside the Government of Gibraltar, we have reached an agreement which protects British sovereignty, supports Gibraltar's economy and allows businesses to plan for the long-term once again.

"I thank the Chief Minister and his Government for their tireless dedication throughout the negotiations. The UK's commitment to Gibraltar remains as solid as the Rock itself."

Chief Minister of Gibraltar Fabian Picardo said:

"I'm delighted we have finalised a conclusive political agreement which will bring legal certainty to the people of Gibraltar, its businesses and to those across the region who rely on stability at the frontier.

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“I have worked hand in glove with the UK government throughout this negotiation to deliver the deal Gibraltar wants and needs – one that will protect future generations of British Gibraltarians and does not in any way affect our British sovereignty.

“Now is the time to look beyond the arguments of the past and towards a time of renewed cooperation and understanding. Now the deal is done, it's time to finalise the Treaty.”

As the only UK overseas territory which shares a border with the Schengen Area, today's political agreement provides a practical solution for the unique situation faced by the people of Gibraltar whose livelihoods depend on a fluid border.

Under the agreement, there will be:

- a clause agreed by all sides which makes explicitly clear that the final Treaty does not impact sovereignty
- a fluid border between Gibraltar and Spain, without checks on people crossing
- dual border control checks for arrivals by air at Gibraltar airport, carried out by Gibraltar and Spanish officials. Immigration and law and order in Gibraltar will remain the exclusive responsibility of Gibraltar's authorities. Spanish officials will be responsible for ensuring the integrity of the Schengen Area, in a model similar to French police operating in London's St Pancras station
- a bespoke goods and customs model for products entering Gibraltar across its land border, avoiding the need for onerous checks
- full operational autonomy of the UK's military facilities in Gibraltar, which play a vital role in protecting regional security and important trade routes
- the opportunity for flights to operate from Gibraltar airport to EU destinations, increasing Gibraltar's connectivity to the continent and improving its prosperity

The agreement clears the way for finalisation of a UK-EU Treaty Text on Gibraltar, which all parties have committed to complete as quickly as possible.

View the joint statement: [UK-EU Agreement in Respect of Gibraltar: joint statement \(https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-eu-agreement-in-respect-of-gibraltar-joint-statement\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-eu-agreement-in-respect-of-gibraltar-joint-statement).

## Background

- Gibraltar is a UK overseas territory located on the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula that was formally ceded to the United Kingdom from Spain in 1713 under the Treaty of Utrecht
- the people of Gibraltar expressed their overwhelming desire to remain British in referenda in 1967 (99%) and 2002 (98%)
- negotiations for a UK-EU Treaty on Gibraltar began in October 2021 under the previous UK government
- the final Treaty will be subject to ratification by the UK and Gibraltar parliaments
- the [UK Strategic Defence Review 2025](#) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-strategic-defence-review-2025-making-britain-safer-secure-at-home-strong-abroad>) sets out the importance of maintaining the UK military presence in Gibraltar, including for maritime force protection operations, upholding the sovereignty of British Gibraltar Territorial Waters, as well as providing a base at a strategic location at the western entrance to the Mediterranean to provide critical support to UK – and allied – military objectives

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## Top level treaty meeting in Brussels 253/2024

APRIL 10, 2024

The Chief Minister Fabian Picardo will attend a top level political meeting in Brussels this week with the UK Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron, the Spanish Foreign Secretary Jose Manuel Albares and EU Commissioner responsible for relations with the UK Maros Sefcovic.

Mr Picardo will be accompanied by the Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia, the Attorney General Michael Llamas and the Chief Secretary Glendon Martinez.

The meeting on Friday will centre on the continuing negotiations to secure Gibraltar's future relationship with the European Union, and with our nearest EU neighbour Spain.

It will be the highest level, multilateral negotiation ever attended by any Chief Minister of Gibraltar and it reflects the variable geometry which has characterised such discussions ever since they commenced.

There have been eighteen formal negotiating rounds so far.

The Chief Minister, Fabian Picardo, said:

"I look forward to engaging on treaty issues with the different parties later this week. Gibraltar remains fully committed to secure a safe treaty which will govern our future relationship with the EU. If the deal on offer is not safe, then I will clearly not bring it back, but I am confident that we may be able to agree a positive and constructive way forward. I am optimistic that the meeting on Friday will very positively advance matters and move us firmly into the territory for delivery of this treaty. I know this will be very good news for people in Gibraltar and the whole region around as, as well as for the wider UK family, Spain and even the EU."

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## UK and Gibraltar Ministers discuss Treaty work and contingency planning - 303/2024

MAY 02, 2024

The Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia, CMG, MP, today met with the UK Minister for Americas, Caribbean and Overseas Territories David Rutley MP, who has responsibility for Gibraltar, in the No-Negotiated Outcome (NNO) Board over Teams.

Mr Rutley and Dr Garcia first met last year during the Joint Ministerial Council of the UK Overseas Territories which took place in London.

The Deputy Chief Minister said:

"The Government of Gibraltar has been working hand-in-glove with HM Government in London throughout the negotiation process. We remain fully committed to concluding an agreement on the future relationship of Gibraltar with the European Union. This will help to increase further still the level of shared prosperity which already exists between Gibraltar and the surrounding region of Spain.

Today, we also agreed it was important to continue to prepare for the alternative as much as we can."

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## Joint Statement on High Level Meeting in Brussels - 348/2024

MAY 16, 2024

European Commission Executive Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič, Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs José Manuel Albares and UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron, together with the Chief Minister of Gibraltar Fabian Picardo, met in Brussels on Thursday 16 May.

This was the second meeting in this format, building on significant progress of 12 April. Today's discussions took place in a constructive atmosphere, with important breakthroughs and additional areas of agreement. All sides are reassured that the agreement is getting closer and will work closely and rapidly on outstanding areas towards an overall EU-UK agreement.

The meeting reaffirmed their shared commitment to concluding an EU-UK Agreement to bring confidence, legal certainty and stability to the lives and livelihoods of the people of the whole region, by protecting and improving economy, trade, mobility, environment and social wellbeing, while safeguarding all parties' legal positions.

They all agreed to remain in close and constant contact.

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## Unauthorized Guardia Civil Vessel Activity within British Gibraltar Territorial Waters - 467/2024

JUNE 27, 2024

This morning, at approximately 10:30 AM, HM Customs (HMC) received a report from a local vessel alleging that a Guardia Civil vessel had entered British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) on the eastern side. The Guardia Civil vessel attempted to board the local vessel.

In response, HMC Sentinel was deployed to the location. While on route, the crew was informed that the Guardia Civil vessel had ceased its attempt to board and had begun pursuing another local vessel. Concurrently, numerous distress calls were received from members of the public regarding the incident.

Upon HMC Sentinel's approach to the scene, the Guardia Civil vessel stopped its pursuit of the local vessel. Shortly thereafter, HMC Sentinel arrived at the location, well within the three mile limit of BGTW, and questioned the Guardia Civil Fishery Protection Vessel. They claimed to have attempted to stop a vessel allegedly fishing illegally just outside of BGTW.

The local vessel, identified as a small, white pleasure craft, was intercepted by HMC Sentinel close to the coastline on the eastern side. An HMC officer boarded the local vessel. The Guardia Civil vessel came close, attempting to come alongside, but HMC Sentinel acted as a buffer and informed them that they were inside BGTW and that HMC would take control of the situation.

HMC Sentinel escorted the local vessel back to base for further questioning and to gather more information. The two local occupants of the local vessel provided an account of the event. Upon gathering information, it was ascertained that the local vessel had incurred damage on the starboard side near the bow. HMC is liaising with other local authorities as the investigation continues.



## Treaty discussions with new Foreign Secretary - 579/2024

SEPTEMBER 04, 2024

Chief Minister Fabian Picardo and Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia met the Foreign Secretary David Lammy in London this afternoon.

This was the first face-to-face meeting between Mr Picardo and Mr Lammy. It allowed for detailed discussion on matters around the proposed treaty about the future relationship of Gibraltar with the European Union and it also touched upon preparations for a Non Negotiated Outcome.

The new Foreign Secretary is no stranger to Gibraltar. In his National Day Message last year, as Shadow Foreign Minister, he reiterated the importance of Gibraltar's sovereignty and made it clear that "the self-determination of the Gibraltarian people is fundamental to their future." He also then expressed his support for the treaty dialogue going forward.

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo, said: "Gibraltar has a real friend in David Lammy. He showed a keen interest in the progress of the negotiations and provided the solid reassurance that Gibraltar's sovereignty is 'sacrosanct'."

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## Chief Minister visits La Linea - 849/2024

DECEMBER 19, 2024

The Chief Minister, Fabian Picardo, made an informal visit to La Linea yesterday, where he met up with the Mayor Juan Franco.

The opportunity was taken to take a walk around the centre of the neighbouring town, where Mr Picardo had the chance to greet several businessmen and citizens.

The Mayor arranged for a lunch in a well known bar/restaurant in the centre of town, which enabled those invited to exchange views on the current situation with the Chief Minister.

The desire for a deal on the post-Brexit situation and how it affects the area was paramount in the discussions.

Everyone expressed their desire for a satisfactory arrangement as soon as possible.

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo KC MP, said: "I was delighted to meet with Juan Franco in La Linea and to have the opportunity to discuss with him how important we all felt a safe, secure and beneficial agreement would be not just for Gibraltar, but also for La Linea and the Campo. I reaffirmed that the positions which we had advanced and the proposals we had made could lead to a Treaty being agreed tomorrow if Spain and the European Union agreed to the terms we had proposed, which were designed to be safe, secure and beneficial for Gibraltar, whilst securing the safety and integrity of the Schengen area and compliance with the obligations relating to the area of free movement of goods and the single market. If those are accepted, we could have a deal tomorrow."



## CHIEF MINISTER MEETS MINISTER FOR EUROPE - 24/2025

JANUARY 13, 2025

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo KC MP, met with the Minister for Europe, the Hon Stephen Doughty MP, this afternoon in London at the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office.

The meeting was organised in order to further discuss the ongoing treaty negotiations between the United Kingdom and the European Union on Gibraltar's future relationship with the EU.

The Chief Minister said: "I really enjoyed seeing Stephen Doughty again to discuss the ongoing issues outstanding in the negotiation. Stephen deeply understands the issues and the way in which we have proposed to resolve all outstanding matters in a way that is in keeping with our fundamental positions whilst fully preserving the security of the Schengen Area and the integrity of the EU Single Market. If our proposals were accepted, we could have a treaty tomorrow. We continue to work on a fully coordinated manner, with the UK and Gibraltar teams working hand in glove with each other, to resolve matters as soon as possible in the interests of people on both sides of the frontier."

# HM Government of Gibraltar Welcomes European Commission's Proposal to Remove Gibraltar from EU AML List - 431/2025

JUNE 10, 2025

HM Government of Gibraltar welcomes the decision adopted earlier today by the European Commission to propose the removal of Gibraltar from the EU's so-called list of high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regimes.

The Commission's decision confirms its technical assessment that Gibraltar satisfies all the criteria for removal from the list. The measure is contained in a Delegated Act which will now proceed to the European Parliament for review and approval before it can enter into legal effect.

Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry, the Hon Nigel Feetham KC MP, commented: "The Commission's proposal reflects Gibraltar's clear technical compliance and our unwavering determination to uphold the integrity of our financial system. It is a just recognition for the continued work Gibraltar has been doing, not only to meet but to exceed international expectations."

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## UK-EU Gibraltar Trade and Mobility Agreement - 434/2025

JUNE 11, 2025

The announcement in Brussels today of an Agreement to proceed with a UK-EU treaty to govern the future relationship of Gibraltar with the European Union can only be good news for citizens and businesses in Gibraltar who now have certainty and clarity in their lives after the disruption caused by Brexit.

The negotiations, which commenced in October 2021, have been extremely complex given the technical, legal and political issues involved and the fact that there were four parties around the table. The successful outcome will reflect the transformation of the 2020 New Year's Eve Agreement into a UK-EU treaty about Gibraltar's future relationship with the European Union.

The Chief Minister Fabian Picardo, the Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia, the Attorney General Michael LLamas, the Chief Secretary Glendon Martinez and the Director of Gibraltar House (Brussels) Daniel D'Amato were in the European Commission building in Brussels today for the final stretch.

It is important to note that Gibraltar will retain FULL control over its own border checks at its external borders as happens today. The practical details involve the elimination of controls at the land border thereby permitting fluid movement between Gibraltar and Spain. This is how it works all across the 29 countries in Schengen, and people in Gibraltar who have travelled seamlessly between Portugal and Spain will have taken note.

Gibraltar and the United Kingdom will continue to apply passport checks with each other, so that the new arrangements, when they come into effect, will have no impact on the UK itself.

The agreement represents a balanced, pragmatic and mutually respectful solution laying the foundations for freedom of movement of goods as well as people, and thereby for a future zone of shared prosperity that will benefit both Gibraltar and the surrounding region.

**The Agreement does not, and will not, compromise British sovereignty over Gibraltar in any way. This will be made abundantly clear in the text of the treaty itself when this is published.**

**Indeed, all sides have said that the Agreement is about people and not about sovereignty.**

It does not diminish Gibraltar's jurisdiction.

It does not reduce our control.

The constitutional status of Gibraltar as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom and part of the British family of Nations remains unchanged.

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo KC MP, said: "I was delighted to meet Foreign Secretary Lammy, Foreign Minister Albares and Commissioner Sefcovic today.

"Let me be clear that this treaty will not depart from any fundamental principle. It is about our future relationship with the European Union and with our nearest EU neighbour, Spain. It has come about because the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union in 2016. The UK already obtained its trade deal and this is Gibraltar's own trade and mobility deal.

"The Government of Gibraltar extends its sincere gratitude to all those who have worked tirelessly and with unwavering dedication over many years to help deliver this historic treaty. We also wish to thank all those who have stood by Gibraltar throughout these negotiations, within the UK Government, across European institutions, and here at home. This agreement is a moment of progress, of clarity, and of optimism for our nation and our people. It also presents a chance for re-set between us and Spain which can lead to economic and social partnership and cooperation over confrontation."

## CHIEF MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO THE COMMITTEE OF 24 THE UNITED NATIONS JUNE 2025 - 450/2025

JUNE 18, 2025

CHIEF MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO THE COMMITTEE OF 24 THE UNITED NATIONS JUNE 2025

Madam Chair,

I warmly congratulate you on your re-election as Chair of this important committee.

The work of this Committee will not be complete until the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories on your list have been decolonised.

Gibraltar is one of those nations.

Representatives of the People of Gibraltar have been appearing before this Committee since the 1960's.

Those who came before us never gave up.

Those who will come after us will never give up.

We will continue our work to ensure that our nation is removed from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories in keeping only with one principle.

The principle of the self determination of peoples.

We will never surrender that.

We will never give that up.

We will be here to insist always on that right.

A right that crystallised with General Assembly Resolution 1514(XV).

And a right which is now recognised as a fundamental principle of customary international law.

We will also insist on the natural consequence of that right – our right to preserve the integrity of our territory.

These, and only these, are the principles that must apply to the decolonisation of our homeland.

The inalienable right of the Gibraltarians to decide their own future within the internationally recognised boundaries of their territory.

THAT takes legal and moral precedence over any claims our neighbour may improperly advance.

We take huge comfort from the Chagos Opinion of the ICJ.

The Court in that matter held that the right to territorial integrity of a Non-Self-Governing Territory is a natural consequence of the right to self-determination.

The whole of our territory – isthmus and waters included – must remain intact during the decolonisation process.

Any attempt to interfere with our territorial integrity is expressly prohibited under paragraph 6 of Resolution 1514.

So forget the IRRELEVANT references you have heard, year after year, to resolutions of the General Assembly from the 1960's that Spain says support its territorial claim to our homeland.

Moreover, the resolutions Spain refers to originate from claims to Gibraltar at a time when Spain was not a democracy.

General Franco is now recognised as a mass murderer by the progressive Government of the Socialist Party in Spain.

It was his dictatorship that first decided to use this Committee as a forum for prosecuting its claims to the land of my people.

The land of my parents and grandparents.

The land of my children.

Our land and ours alone.

That awful dictator died half a century ago.

The representatives of today's modern and progressive Spain should reflect with embarrassment on their reliance on a dictator's legacy here.

I celebrate the excellent approach of the current Spanish Government to the recognition of Franco as a brutal dictator.

I am, nonetheless, saddened by their continued dependence here on the useless resolutions he sought.

But, in any event, nothing in those resolutions takes precedence over the inalienable legal right of self-determination of the People of a Non-Self-Governing Territory.

Of that, there is no question.

And therefore, you must disregard everything you have been told repeatedly by Spain.

You must act to help the people of Gibraltar on the path to decolonisation.

That is your mandate and your obligation under international law,

And you must do so by having regard ONLY to our freely expressed wishes in accordance with our right of self-determination.

Having been on your list since the formation of this Committee, for over 60 years, I am here to tell you that you are taking too long to act.

The Committee should not shirk from its mandate just because another state comes here seeking to stake a medieval claim to our land.

Stop doing nothing.

Start planning a visiting mission.

Take action now.

Because, if you don't, you play into the hands of those who delegitimise the whole of this organisation.

I stand with you in defending the important work of this Committee and of the UN.

Those of us who believe in the rules based, international legal order want the UN to succeed.

We want this Committee to succeed.

I welcome your proactive approach, Madam Chair.

I implore you to starting a process to bring a visiting mission to Gibraltar with the support of my people and the administering power.

Just last week we have been able to agree with the EU and Spain how our relationship with the EU will be regulated in a future UK-EU Treaty on Gibraltar.

Let us also try to see progress on our delisting.

Under the new arrangements with the EU, I can see a new and more positive relationship between us and Spain.

Leaving aside and untouched the issue of sovereignty, we believe we can see a new partnership for prosperity for our people.

A new opening for the whole of our region to become a hub for investment from outside the EU.

A future for more and better jobs and stronger and better human relations.

And all, Madam Chair, respecting the highest regulatory and law enforcement standards and the highest levels of security for our people.

We will no longer have border controls between us as we join a common travel area with Schengen.

But we will work together to ensure the protection of our respective jurisdictions.

Co-operation and partnership in key areas of trade, immigration and law enforcement.

But all without prejudice to our respective positions on sovereignty.

That is what Prime Minister Sanchez promised the people of the region in 2018 when he became President of the Spanish Government.

He told his people he would seek solutions beyond the eternal issue of the sovereignty dispute.

This new deal does just that, leaving the sovereignty issues untouched.

Because, when it comes to the decolonisation of Gibraltar there is no doubt as to which rule applies.

There can be only one.

The right of the people of Gibraltar to self-determination.

Our choice.

And nothing will ever change our desire to choose to remain 100% British.

From the northernmost tip of our land, to the southernmost extent of our waters.

We will never give up one grain of our land, one drop of our water nor one breath of our air.

But we will always be a ready partner for progress and prosperity for people in our region.

Come and see for yourselves.

You won't be disappointed!

ENDS





## CM Statement to Parliament on the treaty - 465/2025

JUNE 23, 2025

With permission, Madam Speaker, I will now make a statement on the agreement for a treaty between the United Kingdom and the European Union in relation to Gibraltar.

### Background

On the 12<sup>th</sup> June, the Deputy Chief Minister and I returned from Brussels having announced that political agreement had been reached with the European Union on a treaty setting out Gibraltar's future relationship with the EU.

On that day, I had joined Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, European Commission Vice, President Maros Sefcovic, and the Spanish Foreign Minister, Jose Manuel Albares, in the Berlaymont building, where, together with the Deputy Chief Minister and each party's respective teams, we were able to reach agreement on the last remaining politically sensitive issues.

That agreement now clears the way for the completion of the drafting of the legal text of the treaty.

Madame Speaker I cannot emphasise strongly enough the spirit of conviviality, friendship and sheer joy shared by all four delegations in that room on that historic day in Brussels as we shook hands and congratulated each other on the job done.

It has been tough, but we got there.

It comes at the back of a tremendous amount of work that we have carried out since the announcement of the Brexit referendum result back on notorious date of the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016.

The period since then has seen us fend off all the challenges we have faced as a Community – not least the not small matter of a world wide pandemic through which we continued to negotiate and progress.

That included our inclusion in the Withdrawal Agreement under a specific Protocol in November 2018.

This was a crucial achievement which meant that Gibraltar, like the UK, was able to benefit from the continued application of EU law from the date of the eventual entry into force of the Withdrawal Agreement.

That period was from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020.

In effect, the period has gone on until now.

Our people should never lose sight of the huge value that has provided for personal fluidity and to our economy throughout the lengthy periods of negotiation.

The formal rounds of treaty negotiations started on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Since then, there have been no less than 19 formal rounds of negotiations, numerous technical meetings and, more recently, sherpa meetings and meetings at Ministerial level with the teams from the European Commission and the Spanish Government.

In the end, we were in a permanent meeting, in person and on video conferences, that lasted, on and off for 7 days.

And, all throughout these almost 4 years of negotiations, the Gibraltar Government has worked hand in glove with the UK Government.

A sentiment that is shared in both London and Gibraltar is that never before in our common history have we worked so closely with each other and never before has there existed such a level of knowledge of, and support for, Gibraltar across virtually all Whitehall Departments.

My sincere thanks, on behalf of the People of Gibraltar, to the successive Conservative and Labour Prime Ministers, Foreign Secretaries and Ministers that I and my team have worked with in these years.

All have been unfailingly loyal to the matters that the Government of Gibraltar variously set out to achieve and to protect.

I want to particularly thank James Cleverly who worked so closely with me, and, Lord David Cameron and David Lammy who were the two who attended meetings in the new format of four in the Berlaymont each on two successive occasions.

With the Davids at my side, little Gibraltar faced the Goliath that is the EU, not with a slingshot but with reasoned argument and the Attorney General's encyclopaedic knowledge of EU law and practice which has been this Community's lifeline in the negotiation.

In particular, it is fair and right to single out also the current Minister for Europe, Stephen Doughty, for his remarkable commitment and work on this matter from the days when he was in Opposition and was fully briefed on progress.

Moreover, Madam Speaker, I must commend the many officials in the UK negotiating team who have become like family to us in the past couple of years.

So much so that finishing this part of this negotiation felt almost like being on the set of the last series of FRIENDS!

#### **The treaty**

The treaty that will now emerge, Madam Speaker, is bespoke to Gibraltar's needs.

A bespoke agreement was vital to Gibraltar.

For that reason, it was never a desire or an option for my Government to form part of the UK's own treaty with the EU, the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

As I have said many times before when I have been pressed on why we were 'left out' of the TCA, the fact is that the TCA delivers the opposite of what Gibraltar wants and needs after Brexit.

I will clearly give a more detailed statement to this House once the treaty text is settled.

Today, I would like to say this.

Ever since we conducted our first Heat Maps, back in the autumn of 2016, on the anticipated effects of Brexit to Gibraltar, it became clear to us that achieving fluidity at Gibraltar's land border with Spain was vital to our economic wellbeing and to our way of life.

It was what people wanted.

It was what businesses were asking us to achieve.

It was what this negotiation had to be all about.

This has, therefore, been the overriding political priority of my Government since then.

Only the worst moments of the Covid pandemic have displaced achieving that agreement as the top political priority of my Government since the autumn of 2016.

The treaty therefore focuses on the two EU laws that deliver border fluidity:

The circulation of persons and the circulation of goods.

But before I turn to that, a word on the key issue: sovereignty.

#### **Sovereignty**

One of the very first clauses of the treaty will be a clause that sets out, in the clearest of ways, that neither the treaty nor any action taken in application of the treaty will prejudice or otherwise affect the respective legal positions of the United Kingdom or Spain with regard to sovereignty and jurisdiction.

I can therefore state, without any caveat, to this House, and with full confidence that nothing in the treaty compromises British sovereignty over Gibraltar.

Not one grain of our land.

Not one drop of our water.

Not one breath of our air.

That was the negotiating objective and it has been met.

Needless to say, this was the reddest of our negotiating lines and I am glad to report that it has been fully achieved.

You will have heard the words of the Father of the House, the Hon Sir Joe Bossano, the most stalwart defender of the protection of the British sovereignty of Gibraltar, on Viewpoint last week and the words of reassurance he expressed there.

I need not add anything further to that.

*Circulation of persons*

Madam Speaker, on circulation of persons, the treaty will establish a common travel area between Gibraltar and the Schengen Area.

This was our overriding objective and it has been achieved.

Border checks at the land border will therefore disappear, both for persons travelling from Gibraltar to Spain and for persons travelling from Spain to Gibraltar.

Gone will be the days of an aggressive Spanish Government or a Rogue Spanish Police Officer being able to strangle our economy by being tougher on passport checks, especially in application of the Schengen Border Code.

In fact, the benefit of the absence of those checks shall be enjoyed by ALL residents of Gibraltar, whether you currently have a red ID card or a blue, green or magenta civilian registration card. It shall also be enjoyed by red ID card holders who do not reside in Gibraltar.

We shall all enjoy free access to the Schengen Area in the same way.

We shall all be exempted from the stamping of our passports.

We shall also be exempted from the Entry Exit System and ETIAS (the EU equivalent of the ESTA system in the USA) when they become operational.

That will also apply whenever we travel to the Schengen Area from a third country, for example, on a flight from London to Rome. Schengen IT systems will be configurated to recognise our cards.

No visas shall be required by any Gibraltar red ID card holder or resident to travel to the Schengen Area.

Indeed, the benefit of fluidity between Gibraltar and the Schengen Area will be enjoyed also by any visitor to Gibraltar from third countries.

In order to achieve that full level of fluidity, border crossing points shall be set up at the airport and port since once cleared here, a person will enjoy unhindered access to the Schengen Area.

Cumulative Gibraltar and Schengen immigration checks shall therefore be performed here.

All persons arriving in Gibraltar from a non-Schengen country will be subject to the dual immigration controls.

Only Gibraltar will be able to determine who comes in Gibraltar.

A Second Line Schengen Control Area shall be built as an addition to the current terminal.

As as previously been announced, it will straddle equidistantly Spain and Gibraltar and it will become a joint operating area for our border guards and those of Spain.

Schengen checks will be carried out principally by automated border control systems.

In the vast majority of cases, this will be the only interaction that a passenger will have with a Schengen check.

The cases where a physical Schengen check may be necessary are very limited, for instance, where there is a technical problem with the automated border control systems, or a Schengen alert is flagged at the automated border control machine.

The Second Line Schengen Control Area will allow Gibraltar and Spanish border guards to carry out follow-up checks wherever necessary.

Our power to grant red ID card is unaffected by the treaty.

The treaty will also make it clear that we will remain responsible for issuing and renewing Gibraltar residence permits.

Since the effect of this part of the treaty is to grant residence permit holders access to the entire Schengen Area, it is necessary and logical for the provisions on residence permits to be based on those which apply between Schengen States.

All Schengen States are, logically, also themselves required to consult one another when they propose to issue residence permits in their respective countries.

And, in the same way, the treaty will require us to carry out a further consultation with the Schengen States, before we issue or renew residence permits.

The purpose of the consultation on residence permits will be to check whether the applicant poses a threat to any of the Schengen States.

That is exactly the same reason as to why Schengen States are required to consult each other before they issue or renew residence permits.

The threshold is very high and in keeping with that which would, in effect, prevent a citizen of one Member State from establishing themselves in another Member State.

Quite frankly, we would not want a person who fails to pass such a high threshold test to be residing in Gibraltar.

That, Madam Speaker, is the essence of the regime on the circulation of persons.

It will guarantee our economic wellbeing and the way of life we are accustomed to.

It will ensure that the 15,000 frontier workers who come to work in Gibraltar will be able to continue to do so and in the best conditions we have ever known, during our time as members of the EU.

This will ensure the stability and growth of important sectors of our economy which depend on frontier workers, such as online gaming and financial services.

It will also ensure the provision of our health and care services.

And of our hospitality services.

The chapter on circulation of persons will also establish security regimes with specific provisions on asylum applications, police cooperation, cooperation with Europol and Eurojust, judicial cooperation in criminal matters, extradition processes, freezing and confiscation of property and exchange of criminal record information.

Madam Speaker, as the father of a gorgeous 7 year old girl, and two robust, handsome boys 13 and 10, I would not do ANYTHING that would make Gibraltar less safe.

With a new police sub station in the area of the airport and other measures to be implemented, believe me, Gibraltar will be safer than ever under these arrangements.

Not less safe.

Safer than ever.

#### ***Circulation of goods***

Madam Speaker, the second pillar of the treaty will be a trade agreement that will allow the free flow of goods between Gibraltar and the EU's Customs Union.

All goods imported into Gibraltar will be cleared by an EU customs point that shall be designated in the treaty.

These will include customs points in La Línea and in Algeciras.

Once imported into Gibraltar those goods will be in free circulation here subject only to the payment of the transaction tax.

The transaction tax will effectively replace the current import duty regime that will disappear.

It is not a VAT.

EU VAT rules will NOT apply in Gibraltar.

A formula has been agreed whereby Gibraltar will not apply a rate of transaction tax that is lower than the rate of VAT applied by any EU Member State.

That currently stands at 17% in Luxembourg.

We will not move to that rate immediately, but an escalator will be agreed to get us there after a number of years.

A mechanism will also be established whereby a panel of experts will annually assess the effect of the progressive rates being implemented.

Some goods will benefit from a reduced rate of 5% or no transaction tax at all.

For instance, children's clothing can be rated at 5% TT, Foodstuffs at 0% TT, Pharmaceuticals at 0% TT and Medical equipment at 0% TT.

Special customs procedures will also exist, whereby goods brought into Gibraltar but not sold in Gibraltar will benefit from certain exemptions including the non-payment of the transaction tax.

This will cover bunkering, motor vehicles and ship supplies thereby protecting these important sectors of our economy.

Traders purchasing goods in Spain or elsewhere in the EU will be able to do so VAT-free.

They will then have to pay the relevant transaction tax when they import those goods for sale in Gibraltar.

But there will not be double taxation.

On the other hand, individuals purchasing goods in Spain or elsewhere in the EU will pay the VAT on those goods and will not be able to obtain a VAT refund.

Our traders will be able to sell their goods to all those coming to Gibraltar with no restrictions or allowances for so long as such goods are for their own personal use.

They will also be able to sell their goods in the EU without the restrictions that have existed in the past and, notably, without having to pay customs duties when entering the EU customs territory.

With regard to third country goods, the EU's Common Customs Tariff shall apply.

This will not, however, apply to goods which are of UK origin.

This is a consequence of the customs arrangements we are establishing with the EU under the treaty and the fact that, under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, no tariffs apply on UK goods being imported into the EU.

**Other parts of the treaty**

Madam Speaker, those are the main pillars of the treaty.

But the treaty will also cover other important areas.

There will be provisions on Environmental protection, Climate Change, Labour and Social Standards, Frontier Workers and Transport.

With respect to air transport, the treaty will open up Gibraltar Airport to flights to and from airports in the European Union.

This means that, for the first time in our history, and directly as a result of these negotiations, we may see commercial flights operated between Gibraltar and places in the EU.

These arrangements therefore take us beyond the short-lived Cordoba arrangements which only provided for flights to Spain.

It is truly remarkable that we have been able to achieve this now that we are outside of the European Union and in a way which does not cross any of our red lines on sovereignty, jurisdiction or control.

We trust that this will put to rest an issue which has plagued Gibraltar's political history ever since Spain first opposed Gibraltar's participation in the EU single sky package of measures close to 40 years ago in 1987.

On that day, together with tens of thousands of our fellow citizens, I joined the demonstration to say NO to the then Airport Agreement.

What we have agreed crosses none of the concerns that all our people had then.

This area of policy and negotiation was ably led, Madam Speaker, by my dear friend the Deputy Chief Minister whose tenacity, understanding and skill on this issue was recognised by all around the table – not least and especially by those sitting opposite us as well as those sitting alongside us.

#### **The Gibraltar Team**

Madam Speaker, the Gibraltar team has been extraordinary in its ability, capacity and resilience.

I exclude myself when I say that Gibraltar should be proud of how its team has delivered in this negotiation.

The Deputy Chief Minister and all current and former Ministers, the Attorney General, our representative in Brussels, the Chief Secretary, the current and former Chief Secretaries, the current and former Financial Secretaries & Collectors of Customs, all have been more than equal to the tasks.

This has been hugely important work and they have all delivered.

As the conductor of the Gibraltar orchestra, my work has been to bring that work together but it is their work that must be recognised.

I could not have done my part without my magnificent team at No6 who put up with so much travel, so much inability to deal with the day-to-day because of the negotiation and so much diary upheaval as a result of the need to move at the last minute.

My deepest gratitude to all of them.

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Indeed, I want thank all who have played a role in supporting me and the Deputy Chief Minister in this negotiation and leading us to what can only realistically be described as a very positive result for Gibraltar.

Madam Speaker, I acknowledge that in the absence of a final treaty text there will be many questions, of course.

Madam Speaker, the government set up an email address to receive the queries of citizens about the agreement.

That address [UKEUTreaty@gibraltar.gov.gi](mailto:UKEUTreaty@gibraltar.gov.gi) has already received almost 1,000 emails.

The Chief Secretary is already working to marshal responses to all queries and publish an FAQ based on the most frequently asked questions coming into that address.

Madam Speaker,

For all of the reasons above, I commend this statement and the agreement it refers to, to this House and to the People of Gibraltar.

**ENDS**

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## Gibraltar Officially Removed from EU High-Risk Third Country List - 573/2025

AUGUST 05, 2025

HM Government of Gibraltar is pleased to announce that the European Union's legislative process to remove Gibraltar from its list of "high-risk third countries" has now concluded. As of today, Gibraltar's de-listing from the EU's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) List takes legal effect.

This follows the EU's earlier notification to the Government on 9 July 2025 of its intention to remove Gibraltar from the list of jurisdictions identified as having strategic deficiencies in their AML/CFT regimes.

This milestone reflects the progress Gibraltar has made in strengthening its AML/CFT framework and brings with it both political and reputational significance. Importantly, the decision also has practical implications for businesses operating between Gibraltar and EU Member States. It eliminates the requirement for "enhanced customer due diligence measures" previously mandated in EU jurisdictions for transactions or business relationships involving Gibraltar.

Commenting on the development, the Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry, the Hon. Nigel Feetham KC MP, said: "With the removal of Gibraltar from the EU AML/CFT List taking legal effect today, it is important to underscore that this decision is not just about restoring Gibraltar's credentials as a premier financial centre. The decision has practical implications too on how business between the EU and Gibraltar is transacted. The synergies which are now formally recognised to exist between our

AML/CFT regimes allow for the safe elimination of enhanced customer due diligence measures. This is good for business. It is good for trade. To preserve the trust re-established, and for Gibraltar to continue to be seen as a partner rather than a detractor, we must persevere with our work on this front and I have written to our interlocutors in the EU to convey my strong commitment to do so."

Chief Minister, Fabian Picardo KC MP, added: "This important step reflects the sterling work of our financial services industry and is also a reflection of the broader, ongoing relationship we are building with the EU. It demonstrates that our partners in the treaty negotiations are increasingly behaving like true partners should. This decision reinforces Gibraltar's standing and highlights the value of good faith and constructive engagement."

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## HM Government of Gibraltar Welcomes Historic Gathering of All Living Chief Ministers at Campo de Gibraltar Commemoration - 695/2025

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

Yesterday, in a landmark event organised by Cadena SER Campo de Gibraltar, the 40th anniversary of the Mancomunidad de Municipios del Campo de Gibraltar was celebrated in Guadacorte, San Roque. The gathering was distinguished by the historic presence of the current Chief Minister together with the three surviving former Chief Ministers of Gibraltar. This was the first time that all living Chief Ministers assembled outside of Gibraltar.

The event, held in the Salón de Actos of ARCGISA, featured a substantive panel discussion on the history, present challenges and future of inter-regional cooperation across the Campo de Gibraltar and Gibraltar itself. Participants also reflected on the significant role that the Mancomunidad has played over four decades as an instrument of collaboration across municipal boundaries.

In his remarks, the current Chief Minister emphasised the spirit of mutual respect, cooperation and forward-looking partnership. He stated:

*"It is a privilege to stand here with my distinguished predecessors, not only in commemoration of forty years of shared work, but as a tangible expression of what we can achieve when dialogue and respect guide our relationships. We know that on both sides of the frontier we are different, and that those differences will remain. Yet it is precisely because of those differences that new opportunities for better collaboration are emerging. Yesterday we gathered not simply to celebrate an institution, but to renew our commitment to building bridges that bring real, lasting benefit to all people across Gibraltar and the Campo de Gibraltar, especially as we approach the new treaty, whose successful implementation will depend on constructive collaboration."*

The gathering was marked by a warm and collaborative atmosphere. All participating Chief Ministers echoed a shared determination to continue forging cooperative frameworks that deliver tangible benefits for citizens on both sides of the frontier, particularly in light of the future UK-EU treaty. The consensus across the meeting was that the well-being of people in Gibraltar and across the Campo de Gibraltar will best be served by robust cross-border institutions, mutual respect and common purpose.

This event reinforces Gibraltar's commitment to positive, partnership-based relations with its neighbours and underscores the Government's resolve that the forthcoming treaty should be rooted in fairness, shared prosperity and mutual respect.

ENDS



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