



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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The Gibraltar Government has offered Spain an agreement providing for exchange of information, transparency and co-operation in tax matters, the fight against money laundering and regulation of the financial system.

This is not new, nor is it “difficult to reach such an agreement at this time” as erroneously stated by PSOE MP Salvador de la Encina. Sr de la Encina appears not to be aware that this was offered by Gibraltar in the run-up to the July 2008 Ministerial meeting of the Trilateral Forum in London, and included and agreed in the Joint Communiqué of that meeting issued by the Foreign Ministers of UK and Spain, and the Chief Minister. Accordingly, none of the UK, Spain or Gibraltar considers it “difficult at this time”.

Also erroneous is Sr de la Encina’s statement commenting on who is responsible for securing the removal of Gibraltar from the list of tax havens. Contrary to his statement Gibraltar has not asked Spain to remove Gibraltar from any international list. Gibraltar has offered Spain an agreement so that Spain is able to stop considering Gibraltar to be a tax haven under Spain’s own national legislation, which stipulates a clear and specific criteria for the removal of countries and territories from its own list of tax havens.

A Government spokesman added: - “No-one in Gibraltar or elsewhere will understand reluctance on the part of anyone in Spain to enter into an agreement of this type which delivers what Spain has criticised and demanded of Gibraltar over so many years”.