



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
PRESS OFFICE
No.6 Convent Place
Gibraltar
Tel: 70071; Fax: 74524**

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The Government of Gibraltar is very pleased that, with its participation in the negotiating process, agreement has been reached on the longstanding problematic issue of Spain's objection to the application of international treaties, conventions and agreements to Gibraltar and the role of Gibraltar's own competent authorities in their administration. The EU's adherence to many important international conventions is obstructed because Spain has hitherto objected to Gibraltar's participation acting with its own competent authority. Spain's position has been that all countries should deal with Gibraltar through the UK.

The matter has been resolved by an agreement that extends the "Competent Authority/Post-boxing" arrangements of 2000 (which applied only to EU Agreements and measures) to all international agreements. As under the 2000 Agreement, Gibraltar and Spanish Competent Authorities will channel their formal, written communications through the UK Post Box established in 2000. This does not alter the fact that the policy, executive and administrative acts and decisions will continue to be taken exclusively in Gibraltar by the Gibraltar Competent Authority.

However, unlike the 2000 agreement, this agreement applies only to formal communications between Gibraltar and Spanish competent authorities. Those between Gibraltar and every other country will remain direct.

Chief Minister Peter Caruana said, "We are delighted with these agreements which work very well for all sides. Consistent with the excellent relations that now exist with the FCO, the Gibraltar Government has been fully consulted throughout and the British Government has agreed only to what the Gibraltar Government has confirmed during the negotiating process that it agrees to. These agreements remove a whole area of traditional problems and

difficulties between Spain, Gibraltar and the UK in the diplomatic arena, and will allow international business to be conducted more fluidly. Our right to operate through our own authorities remains fully in tact, including with Spain. In the case of Spain only, those Gibraltar authorities will physically send their formal written communications to their Spanish counterparts and vice versa through UK diplomatic channels, called “the Post Box”, as has been happening in relation to EU business since April 2000”.