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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**PICARDO & LIDINGTON MEET ON COMMISSION DEADLINE**

The Chief Minister, Hon Fabian Picardo MP, and the Deputy Chief Minister, Hon Joseph Garcia MP, today met with Minister for Europe Rt Hon David Lidington MP at the Foreign Office in London.

The meeting was part of the continued work undertaken by both Governments to ensure the closest possible working relationship in respect of EU matters.

The agenda covered matters relating to aviation, incursions, the status of Gibraltar within the EU as well as the issue of frontier flow which the EU Commission became involved in as a result of it being raised by the Prime Minister with Commission President Barroso.

Chief Minister, Fabian Picardo, said "It was a pleasure to see David Lidington today. It is always very clear to me that he is a staunch friend of Gibraltar and that he is always keen to consider carefully with us how best to defend Gibraltar's corner. It is particularly apposite that today is exactly six months since the EU Commission's recommendations were received, and we were able to assess progress in Gibraltar in working through those recommendations and the apparent lack of progress in Spain. I was also able to discuss further with the Minister the consultation process we are commencing in respect of Gibraltar's status in the EU, something which he has already publicly said he was open to. All in all, an excellent meeting in which areas of common concern were as usual addressed in a very friendly atmosphere."