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Government Responds to Feetham's Unjustified Criticism

The Government notes the statement today from the GSD which completely ignores the explanations provided by the Chief Minister on the issue of the consultation on Gibraltar's EU status.

The Chief Minister, Hon Fabian Picardo, said: "This consultation has been very well received by a large number of traders and individuals who can see the value of this consideration being undertaken now.

The fact is that any uncertainty as there may be about Gibraltar's EU status must be related to the UK referendum. This could result in Gibraltar potentially not forming part at all of the EU in the future, depending on the outcome of the 2015 UK General Election and the result of the 2017 referendum if it is held.

Mr Feetham ignores that, in wanting to continue to stir the pot and try and create antipathy against the Government, he has no regard for what may or may not be best for Gibraltar for the next 40 years. It is essential that we ask ourselves these questions as a community and that we do it now. We are already involved in the UK's Balance of Competences Review on Justice & Home Affairs. This is an exercise which Gibraltar needs to undertake to ensure we are as competitive as we think we are and we remain so. Many traders who have greater vision than Mr Feetham are clear about that. In any event, I do think that, once this process is underway, Mr Feetham will appreciate how wrong his attitude is and will, no doubt, pretend he never took the positions he is taking now. That, like his current unwarranted criticisms, is true to form."