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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**EU Commission finds Reef, Bunkering and Eastside Reclamation Projects do NOT Breach EU Environmental Law**

The EU Commission's Directorate-General on Environment has ruled that, following complaints received from Spain, it is unable to identify any breach of EU environmental legislation in respect of bunkering activities, the Eastside or Sovereign Bay project and, in particular, the Artificial Reef System in North-West BGTW.

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar has received notification of this ruling, via Sir Ivan Rogers, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative at the United Kingdom's representative office in Brussels, from the European Commission of its determination of complaints made by the Kingdom of Spain during the summer of last year against Gibraltar on matters related to the environment.

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar welcomes that finding.

The Government also wishes to recognise the work that the relevant Gibraltar agencies, competent authorities and ministries do in order to ensure that when our actions are put under the microscope we are found to have acted properly at both a substantive and technical level.

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar has been pleased to work in a closely co-ordinated and effective manner with the UK Government's officers in London and in Brussels in delivering this excellent result. A further and more detailed statement will be made next week.

**Notes for Editors**

The complaints by Spain related to activities carried out in and off the coast of Gibraltar and included the issues of bunkering activities, the Eastside or Sovereign Bay Projects and, in particular, the Artificial Reef System created in North West British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

The EU Commission had, upon receipt of the relevant complaints, sought further information from the United Kingdom and Gibraltar as part of its investigation of the complaints.