



PRESS RELEASE

No: 897/2015

Date: 2nd december 2015

Chief Minister meets with Minister for Europe

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, met with the Minister of State for Europe, the Rt Hon David Lidington MP, in a private session at Lancaster House yesterday (Wednesday) to discuss issues of interest to Gibraltar. Mr Lidington, who had earlier addressed a gathering of British Overseas Territories leaders attending the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) warmly congratulated Mr Picardo on his landslide win at the recent General Election in Gibraltar.

The main issue discussed between the two ministers was the question of 'Brexit'.

Mr Picardo signalled HM Government of Gibraltar's support for Prime Minister David Cameron's efforts to achieve continued EU membership on the basis of reforms. Mr Picardo told the minister that the necessary legislative work by the Gibraltar Parliament to ensure readiness for the referendum on EU membership was being carried out. He reassured Mr Lidington that Gibraltar would not be the source of any delays.

Mr Picardo also took the opportunity to brief Mr Lidington on the Government's new manifesto commitments. Earlier, the Chief Minister participated in a session of the JMC chaired by the Minister for Overseas Territories James Dudderidge MP. The main themes addressed at this session were Child Safeguarding and Economic Development.

This evening (Wednesday) Mr Picardo is dining privately with the Governor-designate Lieutenant-General Edward Davis before flying back to Gibraltar tomorrow (Thursday) morning.