



PRESS RELEASE

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Environmental Aspects of Brexit – DEFRA team visits Gibraltar

A team of senior officials from the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has been in Gibraltar this week to continue discussions on the environmental aspects of Brexit, as part of the Brexit Environment Working Group set up by the Government and chaired by Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, John Cortes. Numerous meetings have been held on London and by teleconferencing over the past year, but this is the first time the full Group has met in Gibraltar. Gibraltar officials forming part of the Working Group include John Rodriguez, Collector of Customs, Liesl Mesilio, CEO Environment, as well as members of and advisors to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change, the Chief Environmental Health Officer Glen Banda, and Parliamentary Counsel Paul Peralta and other members of the Gibraltar Law Offices.

During the visit, the DEFRA officials met also with the Deputy Chief Minister and his team, the Chief Secretary and the Deputy Governor, and visited different parts of Gibraltar as well as spending some time on a familiarisation visit to the Frontier.

The discussions considered a wide range of issues including environmental protection, food and waste and other environment-related implications of Brexit both under the provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement and in a no-deal scenario.

Minister John Cortes commented, “In parallel with all the other more high-profile discussions on Brexit, the Government has been working behind the scenes with UK officials in looking at the practical aspects of ensuring as smooth as possible a departure from the EU. The visit by such a strong contingent from DEFRA once again proves the deep commitment of HMG to supporting Gibraltar at this time.”