



No: 228/2019

Date: 28th March 2019

Government changes EU exit day in Gibraltar law

The Government has published regulations to amend the definition and effect of exit day in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2019, in order to make the necessary amendments following on from the extension sought by the UK.

The Chief Minister has now signed the regulations into law.

This follows the UK statutory instrument that was approved in the Westminster Parliament yesterday.

This means that the earliest date for the departure of the United Kingdom and Gibraltar from the European Union will now be 12 April instead of 29 March in the event of a no deal Brexit.

In the event that the Withdrawal Agreement is approved by the UK Parliament, the departure date will be 22 May. There would then be a transition period until the end of 2020 during which everything would remain largely the same.

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo said, "I am very pleased indeed to have today signed the regulation postponing the end of our European Communities Act in exercise of the powers Parliament bestowed on me under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act. At this stage, we have only a short respite with the 12th April or 22nd May as potential new dates looming for our departure from the EU. Depending on what happens next in London, we will likely either leave with a deal, see a long postponement or revocation of Brexit or a new referendum and no Brexit at all. That would be the best outcome for Gibraltar. The worst outcome, a 'no-deal' Brexit, seems to be much less likely, for now at least."