

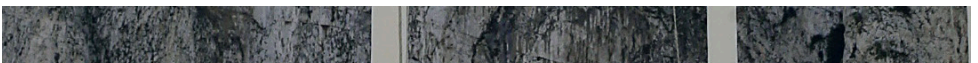
Why you should vote to  
**REMAIN**  
in the European Union



HM Government  
of Gibraltar

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The EU referendum,  
Thursday, 23rd June 2016



# A CRUCIAL DECISION FOR GIBRALTAR

On Thursday, 23rd June you will be asked to vote in a referendum on whether the UK and Gibraltar should remain within the European Union. It is a big decision which will affect you, your family and your children. The Government firmly believes

the UK and Gibraltar should remain in the EU. This leaflet sets out some basic facts, and explains why the Government believes a vote to remain in the EU is in the best interests of the people of Gibraltar.



**CROSS-PARTY SUPPORT  
TO REMAIN IN THE EU**

*Dr Joseph Garcia MP, Fabian Picardo QC MP & Daniel Feetham MP united in support of Gibraltar Stronger In Campaign*

# A CLEAR MESSAGE WE ARE BRITISH AND WE WANT TO REMAIN PART OF THE EU

Every single vote counts to influence the outcome, which will deliver a crucial message to the British Government on the rights and protection Gibraltar expects to enjoy into the future.

If there is a vote to leave it is important that the United Kingdom recognises the consequences of its decision to hold a referendum and its obligations to defend our rights and economic interests.

- Uniquely all our elected politicians are standing on the same platform to **REMAIN**.
- All our former Chief Ministers have made clear their support for **REMAIN**.
- All political parties GSLP, Liberals and GSD and their leaders Fabian Picardo QC MP, Dr Joseph Garcia MP and Daniel Feetham MP are united on this.



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## WIDE SUPPORT TO REMAIN

This is also the position of Gibraltar's three largest unions, Unite, the GGCA and the Gibraltar Teachers' Association. Together they represent the majority of workers in Gibraltar.

It is the position too of the Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses and of the Board of the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce who combined represent the majority of the businesses and employers in our economy.

It is a big decision which will affect you, your family and your children.

The Government firmly believes the UK and Gibraltar should remain in the EU. But what happens if we leave?



# LEAVING EU WOULD CAUSE UNCERTAINTY

Voting to leave the EU would create years of uncertainty and potential economic disruption. This would reduce investment and cost jobs.

The UK Government judges it could result in 10 years or more of uncertainty as the UK unpicks its relationship and renegotiates new arrangements with the EU and over 50 other countries around the world.

Gibraltar would suffer the full brunt of that uncertainty.

No Member State has ever left the EU. The UK's exit would therefore be unprecedented. It is far from clear what type of deal the UK would be able to obtain. The EU is not likely to make it easy for the UK. It will not want to set a precedent that other Member States may seek to follow.

A more limited trade deal between the UK and the EU would, in the first place, have to ensure that it applies to Gibraltar. This is likely to require the unanimous support of all EU Member States. Secondly, such a deal would give the UK and Gibraltar less access to the Single Market than we have now.

Gibraltar will survive and prosper whatever the challenge but we are stronger in Europe.



# A STRONGER ECONOMY



Gibraltar has a vibrant economy that enables your Government to provide essential public services to all of you such as: education, healthcare, job creation, and pension security, thus creating prosperity for the community.

The European Union sets very stringent rules and regulations governing trade and standards. This has been crucial in ensuring that Gibraltar has access to the whole of the European market in services and goods. We sell insurance, banking services and many financial products having fought hard to ensure that our authorities and institutions are recognised and meet the standards set by international bodies such as the OECD and IMF. That has given us a platform for our business model as an EU financial centre that is recognised internationally as operating to the same standards as the City of London.

Our successful economic model is built on our EU membership.

The EU's Single Market has over 500 million customers. It is by far Gibraltar's biggest market. It makes it easier and cheaper for Gibraltar companies to sell their services.

Financial services, online gaming and tourism all sustain good jobs and create prosperity for all of us in Gibraltar.

Our EU status is a magnet for investment. Losing full access to the EU's Single Market would make the provision of services to Europe harder, increase costs and weaken Gibraltar's position as an international finance centre.

# KEEPING US SAFER

We live in a dangerous world. Why would we want to be isolated? The EU exists to promote economic security, peace and stability. We want to be part of this.

EU membership means our law enforcement agencies can cooperate with their counterparts throughout the EU. Such cooperation makes it easier to keep criminals and terrorists out of Gibraltar.



## THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE

The EU principle of freedom of movement of people has seen some 10 million plus people cross the border each year, bringing many economic opportunities. Many of these visitors are tourists. There has been a significant growth in restaurants, entertainment and commerce in a busy Main Street and surrounding area.



# 'CLUB' BENEFITS

Membership of the EU brings with it important access to EU institutions and funding. The pulse of life in Gibraltar is truly European and cosmopolitan. Our sensitivity to conservation and the environment means we have eagerly met the challenges from the EU on these fronts and been rewarded by support in funding projects. EU funding is available for private and public sector projects.

Over the years key projects aimed at creating jobs, restoring heritage, diversifying businesses, training and improving the environment have received millions of pounds in funds from the EU.

The EU sets standards for consumer goods which means protection from dangerous or substandard items. It also ensures that goods can reach Gibraltar at speed so that fresh food and other items reach consumers and businesses at reasonable prices. Choice and quality have been central to our standard of living for decades. Remaining in Europe will keep our Main Street buzzing with activity and our restaurants, hotels and shops creating jobs and wealth.

# EUROPE AT THE SERVICE OF THE CITIZEN

The EU puts the citizen first with laws that ensure workers' rights both in Gibraltar and elsewhere in the EU. These laws cover:

- Safety at work ensuring standards on machinery, controls on dangerous chemicals, inspection to avoid hazards to workers and the public;
- Obliging employers to give 28 days paid leave a year;
- Imposing a 48 hour week maximum and ensuring the working day does not exceed 13 hours;
- Fairness: vulnerable workers are protected and laws cover part-time work, fixed-term contracts, working hours, employment of young people, informing and consulting employees;
- Regulated sick leave;
- Protection against discrimination based on sex, race, religion, age, disability and sexual orientation;
- Equal opportunities for women and men: equal pay for the same job and equal treatment at work, pregnancy, paid maternity leave, parental leave.

**Gibraltar helps  
to elect six MEPs**

# WHEN YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TRAVEL

- You and your family are protected for any emergency including free medical care;
- You can travel anywhere in the EU with your ID card;
- If you travel outside the EU any of the EU embassies will provide assistance;
- The EU has ensured cheap flights with strict safety controls for passengers;
- The EU has worked to lower and level the cost of roaming with your mobile phone;
- Basic standards of safety pressure hotels and other facilities to work to higher standards.



# HAVING A VOICE

- It was EU citizens from Gibraltar and afar who, through signing a petition, made sure the European Commission acted when Spain was deliberately strangling our frontier;
- Our young people take part in events across Europe;
- We are listened to in Brussels despite Spain's efforts;
- We fight legal battles and we often win.





# EU HELPS US PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

## *How we live*

- Protection of the environment for the benefit of people, animals and plants;
- Regulations protecting buildings and the quality of their production and materials used;
- Conservation of culture and history through laws and EU funding;

In addition to this, the EU has clearly told Spain that Gibraltar's bunkering industry, the artificial reef and the eastside reclamation all comply with European Union law.

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## SPAIN HELD IN CHECK BY EU LAW



Throughout our entire history, Spain has been pouncing on every opportunity to disenfranchise the people of Gibraltar of their rights. They want the world to believe that we are not a real people. They would deny us the right to our land and have described us as squatters in our own home.

Over the past few decades Spain's tactic has been to use every means it can to strangle our political and economic development. More recently the Madrid government and its Foreign Minister Garcia-Margallo, in particular, have sought to use the frontier as a means to turn the pressure up on Gibraltar.



*European Commission visiting the frontier 2nd July 2014*

Our membership of the EU has brought many challenges but it has also been a platform to defend the rights derived from that membership such as freedom of movement for people and services across Europe and through the frontier. When, in 2013, Spain tried to create deliberately slow and intrusive checks, the EU responded to the call from thousands of citizens who formally petitioned.

The European Commission sent inspection teams and concluded that “the intensity of those checks is not justified and could therefore be reduced, further contributing to smooth travel flows from Spain to Gibraltar.”

The EU blocked Madrid’s abuse of the border which would go by unchecked if we do not have the force of European law on our side.

- Also, the Spanish authorities have reported that random checks are carried out by Spanish customs on exit from Spain. However, the Commission is of the opinion that the intensity of those checks is not justified and could therefore be reduced, further contributing to smooth travel flows from Spain to Gibraltar.

# SPAIN WOULD WELCOME OUR EU EXIT

There is no doubt that many sectors of the Spanish Government and establishment would welcome a Gibraltar outside the European Union, particularly its Foreign Minister Garcia-Margallo.

In 2013 he proposed a frontier toll on motorists driving into Gibraltar. This was scuttled by the European Union when it declared that such a toll would be illegal.

Snr. Margallo cannot wait for Gibraltar to leave the EU. He has already pointed to shared sovereignty with the UK as the price to pay if Gibraltar wanted to remain in the event of a UK exit. The Spanish Foreign Ministry is on record as having said that all the options would be open in that context including the closure of the border.



*Gibraltar cannot afford to place itself at the mercy of Spain.*

## THE MANY BENEFITS OF EU MEMBERSHIP

- The Gibraltar EU identity card is recognised as a valid document for EU travel.
- EU membership guarantees many employment, social and consumer rights.
- It places us at the forefront of environmental protection, on our land and in our waters.
- It provides numerous opportunities for you and your children, from the right to live, work or study anywhere in the EU, to the right to travel easily in European countries and to be able to access free or cheaper public healthcare.

The UK Government has estimated that if we were to leave the EU, the resulting economic shock would put pressure on the value of the pound. This could damage the standard of living in Gibraltar.

**BENEFITS**



# A ONCE IN A GENERATION DECISION

The referendum on Thursday, 23rd June is your chance to vote to remain in or leave the European Union.

The Government believes it is in the best interests of Gibraltar and our people to remain in the EU.

This is the way to protect jobs, provide security, and strengthen Gibraltar's economy.

It is a clear path into the future, in contrast to the uncertainty of leaving.

**Below is the ballot you will receive on the day of the referendum. Mark with an 'X' the option to REMAIN in the EU.**

<b>Referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union</b>	
<b>Vote only once</b> by putting a cross <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	
Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?	
<b>Remain a member of the European Union</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Leave the European Union</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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