



COMUNICADO

Gobierno de Gibraltar

El Ministro Principal y el Ministro para Europa de la FCDO firman en Bruselas el concordato entre el Reino Unido y Gibraltar

Gibraltar, 14 de julio de 2026

El Gobierno de Gibraltar y el Gobierno británico han firmado hoy en Bruselas el Concordato entre el Reino Unido y Gibraltar. El Ministro Principal, Fabián Picardo, y el Ministro británico para Europa, Stephen Doughty, firmaron en representación de Gibraltar y el Reino Unido, respectivamente.

La firma tuvo lugar en Ducale, la residencia del embajador británico ante la Unión Europea, antes de la ceremonia oficial de firma del Tratado sobre Gibraltar en el edificio Berlaymont de Bruselas.

El Concordato es un acuerdo bilateral entre los dos Gobiernos británicos. Establece cómo el Reino Unido y Gibraltar darán cumplimiento a sus respectivas obligaciones en virtud del Tratado entre el Reino Unido y la UE en lo que respecta a Gibraltar, incluyendo el funcionamiento de los Comités creados según el mismo.

El Concordato establece el “doble bloqueo” en caso de rescisión.

De conformidad con el principio de “nada sobre Gibraltar sin Gibraltar”, el Gobierno del Reino Unido no tomará, salvo en circunstancias muy excepcionales, los pasos necesarios para rescindir el Acuerdo, a menos que dicha rescisión cuente con el respaldo de:

- a) una moción aprobada por una mayoría de al menos tres cuartas partes del número total de diputados del Parlamento de Gibraltar; o
- b) una mayoría simple de los votos emitidos en un referéndum en el que participen todas las personas con derecho a voto en las elecciones al Parlamento de Gibraltar.

Estas garantías cumplen los requisitos de la moción unánime y multipartidista del Parlamento de Gibraltar, que condicionó la ratificación del Tratado a la conclusión satisfactoria del Concordato y exigió que cualquier decisión futura sobre su rescisión se sometiera al pueblo de Gibraltar mediante un referéndum o mediante una mayoría de tres cuartos en el Parlamento.

Si bien, en virtud del Derecho Internacional, el Reino Unido es el responsable último del cumplimiento del acuerdo, según la Constitución de Gibraltar y la legislación gibraltareña, el Gobierno gibraltareño es responsable de aplicar y hacer cumplir todo lo dispuesto sobre el terreno, incluidos los controles y la vigilancia fronterizos, la residencia y los visados, las aduanas, la aplicación de la ley, la lucha contra el blanqueo de capitales, la seguridad social y otros aspectos.



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El Concordato no afecta a la responsabilidad del Reino Unido en materia de relaciones exteriores de Gibraltar. El Reino Unido sigue siendo responsable de la defensa y el Gobernador, de la seguridad interior.

El Ministro Principal de Gibraltar, Fabián Picardo, declaró:

“El Concordato es la base sobre la que se asentará este Tratado para Gibraltar. Establece, por escrito, lo que nuestro Parlamento y nuestro pueblo exigieron como condición para dar su apoyo: que nunca se hiciera nada en virtud del Tratado que fuera contrario a los deseos expresados por el pueblo de Gibraltar.

Quiero dar las gracias al Ministro Doughty y a su equipo de la Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) por el esmero y la buena fe que han demostrado en estas negociaciones. También doy las gracias al Viceministro Principal, Joseph García, y al Fiscal General, Michael Llamas, que han desempeñado un papel fundamental a la hora de garantizar que cada palabra de este Concordato redunde en beneficio de Gibraltar.

El Concordato sigue el modelo del Concordato entre el Reino Unido y Gibraltar de 2018, celebrado en el marco del Acuerdo de Retirada, que fue firmado por el Ministro Principal y el entonces Viceprimer Ministro británico, David Lidington.

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PRESS RELEASE

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Date: 14 July 2026

Chief Minister and FCDO Minister Sign UK-Gibraltar Concordat in Brussels

HM Government of Gibraltar and His Majesty's Government have today signed the UK-Gibraltar Concordat in Brussels. Chief Minister Fabian Picardo KC MP signed on behalf of Gibraltar. The Minister of State for Europe, the Rt Hon Stephen Doughty MP, signed on behalf of the United Kingdom.

The signing took place at Ducale, the residence of the British Ambassador to the European Union, ahead of the formal Treaty ceremony at the Berlaymont building in Brussels.

The Concordat is a bilateral agreement between the two British governments. It sets out how the UK and Gibraltar will give effect to their respective obligations under the UK-EU Treaty in respect of Gibraltar, including how the Committees established under it are going to operate.

The Concordat delivers the "double lock" on termination.

Consistent with its principle of 'nothing about Gibraltar without Gibraltar', the UK Government will not, other than in the most exceptional circumstances, take the necessary steps with a view of terminating the Agreement unless termination is supported by:

- (a) A motion carried by a majority of at least three-quarters of the total number of Members of the Gibraltar Parliament; or
- (b) A simple majority of the votes cast in a referendum of all persons entitled to vote in elections to the Gibraltar Parliament.

These protections fulfil the requirements of the Gibraltar Parliament's cross-party unanimous motion, which made Treaty ratification conditional on the Concordat's satisfactory conclusion and required any future decision on termination to be put to the people of Gibraltar in a referendum or via a 3/4 majority in Parliament.

While the UK is ultimately responsible in international law for compliance with the agreement, under the Gibraltar Constitution and Gibraltar law, HM Government of Gibraltar is responsible for implementing and enforcing everything on the ground, including border checks and surveillance, residence and visas, customs, law enforcement, AML, social security and more.

The Concordat is without prejudice to the UK's responsibility for the external relations of Gibraltar. The UK remains responsible for defence and the Governor for internal security.

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo KC MP, said:



"The Concordat is the bedrock on which this Treaty will rest for Gibraltar. It delivers, in black and white, what our Parliament and people required as the condition of their support: that nothing would ever be done under the Treaty contrary to the expressed wishes of the people of Gibraltar.

"I want to thank Minister Doughty and his team at the FCDO for the care and good faith they have brought to these negotiations. I also thank the Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Joseph Garcia, and the Attorney General, Michael Llamas, who have been at the heart of securing every word of this Concordat in Gibraltar's interests."

The Concordat follows the model of the 2018 UK-Gibraltar Concordat concluded under the Withdrawal Agreement, which was signed by the Chief Minister and then Deputy Prime Minister David Lidington.

ENDS

Stephen Doughty, Ministro para Europa, Norteamérica y Territorios Británicos de Ultramar

Carta dirigida al Ministro Principal de Gibraltar, Fabián Picardo

Gibraltar, 14 de julio de 2026

Estimado Ministro Principal:

Ahora que nos preparamos para firmar el Tratado entre el Reino Unido y la UE relativo a Gibraltar, quería escribirle en relación a las recientes conversaciones sobre el Concordato entre el Reino Unido y Gibraltar.

El Tratado establece un marco nuevo y sin precedentes para la relación de Gibraltar con la Unión Europea. Tras un amplio debate a lo largo de los últimos meses, el Concordato refleja el acuerdo político alcanzado entre nuestros Gobiernos sobre las disposiciones prácticas que sustentan dicha relación. Quiero asegurarle que la firma del Tratado no supone el fin del diálogo entre nuestros Gobiernos sobre estas cuestiones.

En primer lugar, se ha debatido la frase según la cual el Gobierno del Reino Unido no hará, “salvo en circunstancias muy excepcionales”, determinadas cosas contrarias a los deseos de Gibraltar. Dicha frase aparece en los capítulos del Concordato dedicados a la cooperación, las medidas significativas, la resolución de controversias y la rescisión o suspensión.

Esta frase refleja el entendimiento común de que, en lo que respecta al ejercicio de las competencias previstas en el Tratado, el Gobierno del Reino Unido se atendería a los deseos expresados democráticamente por Gibraltar y no haría ni omitiría hacer nada que fuera contrario a dichos deseos, salvo en circunstancias verdaderamente excepcionales.

Con ello se pretende establecer un umbral extremadamente alto y coherente con el principio de que “no se debe decidir nada sobre Gibraltar sin Gibraltar”, al tiempo que se reconocen las responsabilidades constitucionales del Reino Unido. Esta es la base sobre la que tanto yo como mis colegas ministeriales hemos descrito también este acuerdo en el Parlamento.

Esto también es coherente con el principio del “doble bloqueo”, tal y como se menciona explícitamente en el Concordato.

Considero que solo en los casos más extremos, como por ejemplo cuando hubiera un grave impacto en los intereses esenciales del Reino Unido, tomaríamos tal medida. Francamente, me parece inconcebible que tales circunstancias llegaran a darse alguna vez.

Lo anterior se aplica con especial fuerza a las disposiciones de rescisión o suspensión del Concordato, que abarcan tanto una situación en la que Gibraltar solicitara al Reino Unido la rescisión del Acuerdo, como una situación en la que el Reino Unido se propusiera rescindir el Acuerdo sin que Gibraltar lo hubiera pedido.

Espero que lo anterior le proporcione las garantías adicionales que ha solicitado. Por último, queda claro que las conversaciones sobre el Concordato también han puesto de relieve la naturaleza de la relación constitucional entre el Reino Unido y Gibraltar, así como la necesidad de evaluar cómo funciona dicha relación en la práctica.

Tras la firma y la aplicación provisional del Tratado, acogería con agrado un debate estructurado entre nuestros respectivos Gobiernos sobre cualquier cuestión que cualquiera de las partes considere que merece un examen más detallado a la luz del nuevo marco del Tratado, para garantizar que este funcione de manera eficaz en lo que respecta a nuestras respectivas obligaciones y competencias.

Espero seguir colaborando estrechamente con usted a medida que avanzamos hacia la aplicación de este acuerdo histórico.

Atentamente,

Stephen Doughty

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Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Stephen Doughty MP

Minister of State for Europe, North
America and UK Overseas Territories
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

The Honourable Mr Fabian Picardo KC
MP
Chief Minister
Gibraltar

13 July 2026

Dear Chief Minister,

As we prepare to sign the UK-EU Treaty in respect of Gibraltar, I wanted to write regarding the recent discussions on the UK-Gibraltar Concordat.

The Treaty establishes a new and unprecedented framework for Gibraltar's relationship with the European Union. Following extensive discussion over recent months, the Concordat reflects the political understanding reached between our Governments on the practical arrangements that underpin that relationship. I want to assure you that signature of the Treaty does not mark the end of the conversation between our Governments on these matters.

Firstly, there has been some discussion on the phrase that the United Kingdom Government will not “other than in the most exceptional circumstances” do certain things contrary to the wishes of Gibraltar. The phrase appears under the Cooperation, Significant Actions, Dispute Settlement and Termination/Suspension chapters of the Concordat.

This phrase reflects the shared understanding that, in relation to the exercise of powers within the Treaty, the United Kingdom Government would follow the democratically expressed wishes of Gibraltar and would not do, or omit to do, anything contrary to those wishes in all but truly exceptional circumstances. This is intended to set an extremely high threshold and is consistent with the principle that there should be “nothing about Gibraltar without Gibraltar”, while also recognising the United Kingdom's constitutional responsibilities. This is the basis on which myself and ministerial colleagues have also described the arrangement in Parliament.

That is also consistent with the principle of the Double Lock, as explicitly referred to in the Concordat.

I consider it would only be in the most extreme cases, such as where there was grave impact on the United Kingdom's essential interests that we would take such action. Quite frankly, I consider it inconceivable that such circumstances would ever arise.

The above applies with particular force to the Termination/Suspension provisions of the Concordat which covers both a situation where Gibraltar were to request the United Kingdom to terminate the Agreement as well as a situation where the United Kingdom Government were minded to terminate the Agreement without it having been requested by Gibraltar.

I hope that the foregoing gives the additional reassurances you have sought. Finally, it is clear that the discussions on the Concordat have also highlighted the nature of the constitutional relationship between the United Kingdom and Gibraltar and the need to take stock of how that relationship is operating in practice.

Following signature and provisional application of the Treaty, I would welcome a structured discussion between our respective Governments on any issues that either side considers would merit further consideration in light of the new Treaty framework, to ensure it operates effectively with respect to our respective duties and competencies.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you as we move into implementation of this historic agreement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Stephen Doughty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large 'S' and a long, sweeping 'y'.

Stephen Doughty MP
Minister of State for Europe, North America and UK Overseas Territories

**CONCORDAT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UK-EU
AGREEMENT IN RESPECT OF GIBRALTAR**

BETWEEN

**HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

AND

HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

These arrangements concern the obligations and commitments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the agreement in respect of Gibraltar between the United Kingdom, of the one part and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the other part (the “Agreement”).

The obligations entered into by the United Kingdom in the Agreement have been entered into with the consent of His Majesty’s Government of Gibraltar and following its full participation in the negotiations and noting the motion of the Gibraltar Parliament of 3 March 2026 calling upon the United Kingdom to sign and ratify the Agreement. It is on this basis that the Agreement will be signed by the United Kingdom.

These arrangements are without prejudice to the UK’s responsibility for the external relations of Gibraltar.

The Agreement

The implementation of the Agreement will fully respect the constitutional arrangements in place in respect of Gibraltar and in particular the Gibraltar Constitution Order 2006 (the “Constitution”) and, in particular, the provision, at Section 47(3) that, without prejudice to the United Kingdom’s responsibility for Gibraltar’s compliance with European Union law, matters which under the Constitution are the responsibility of Ministers will not cease to be so even though they arise in the context of the European Union. The rights and obligations in the Agreement in respect of issues that fall within the Gibraltar Government’s responsibilities under the Constitution will be enjoyed by and performed by the Government of Gibraltar, and in particular the Chief Minister, other Ministers and other relevant Gibraltar competent authorities.

Under the Constitution, and Gibraltar law, they are the authorities who have responsibility for, and who are vested with the powers of implementation relevant to, the areas covered by the Agreement that fall within the Gibraltar Government’s responsibilities under the Constitution.

To this effect, where relevant, the expression “United Kingdom, in respect of Gibraltar” used throughout the Agreement is understood to refer to the Government of Gibraltar or to Gibraltar as the case may be and relevant obligations and responsibilities in the Agreement vested on the “United Kingdom, in respect of Gibraltar” are vested on the Government of Gibraltar.

The United Kingdom is ultimately responsible in international law for compliance with the Agreement. The United Kingdom and Gibraltar recognise Gibraltar’s essential role in assisting the United Kingdom to meet its obligations under international law. Gibraltar commits not to do anything which would undermine the United Kingdom’s ability to meet its international obligations.

Responsibilities

The Government of Gibraltar will be responsible for implementing and enforcing the provisions of the Agreement that fall within its responsibilities under the Constitution. To this effect, the competent authorities to be notified pursuant to Article 68 of the Agreement and pursuant to the other treaty provisions referred to in Article 68 will be the competent authorities of Gibraltar each time they refer to matters that fall within their responsibilities under the Constitution. These responsibilities include legislating for, giving effect to, operationalising and any associated costs of the following pursuant to the terms of the Agreement:

- Border checks and surveillance
- Residence, visa and asylum systems
- Customs, indirect taxation, goods regulation and tobacco traceability
- All “Level Playing Field” provisions, including for establishing the independent authority pursuant to Article 205 of the Agreement and for naming individuals to serve as panellists pursuant to Article 236 of the Agreement.
- Law enforcement cooperation
- Regulatory alignment
- Anti-money laundering measures
- Frontier workers' rights and social security coordination
- Financial mechanism

The Government of Gibraltar will also be responsible for establishing the independent consultative body under Article 248(5) of the Agreement and for constituting the joint venture company together with the Kingdom of Spain under Article 274 of the Agreement. The UK Ministry of Defence will be consulted on the terms of establishment of the joint venture company for the purposes of ensuring defence equities are out of scope.

When they concern matters that fall within the responsibilities of the Gibraltar Government under the Constitution, the Gibraltar Government will be fully involved in developing negotiation positions in future negotiations under the Agreement.

The United Kingdom will, without prejudice to the provisions of Section 47(3) of the Constitution, remain responsible for Gibraltar’s external relations with the EU and Spain. The United Kingdom will also:

- Remain responsible for Gibraltar’s external relations in negotiations and dispute resolution mechanisms under the Agreement
- Certify documents and facilitate liaison functions as required under Article 6 of the Agreement
- Remain responsible for Gibraltar’s defence, airspace control and military installations

The Governor of Gibraltar will remain responsible for their special responsibilities under the Constitution such as Gibraltar’s internal security, including the police.

Cooperation

Where the Agreement requires the establishment of dialogue, consultation or cooperation with the European Union, and where relevant for the purposes of implementation of the Agreement, the United Kingdom Government and the Government of Gibraltar will seek to develop shared and agreed positions on issues that fall within the Gibraltar Government's responsibilities under the Constitution.

The Gibraltar Government will nominate persons to participate in:

- the Cooperation Council established pursuant to Article 22 of the Agreement, alongside the relevant UK Minister; and
- each of the Specialised Committees established pursuant to Article 23 of the Agreement.

The persons nominated by the Gibraltar Government will play a leading role in such Committees on issues that fall within the Gibraltar Government's responsibilities under the Constitution and, in relation to those issues, the United Kingdom Government will not, other than in the most exceptional circumstances, adopt positions or make decisions in those bodies without the Gibraltar Government's agreement.

Costs

Recognising the shared interest in the successful implementation of the Agreement, the United Kingdom Government and Government of Gibraltar will each bear the costs for their respective areas of responsibilities (as detailed above). In case of internal security, both sides will keep to the current practice. In case of joint responsibilities, financial costs will in principle be met by the United Kingdom Government and the Government of Gibraltar in an equitable manner.

Significant Actions

The UK will, other than in the most exceptional circumstances, seek prior agreement of the Government of Gibraltar before taking any significant actions under the Agreement at the Party level in areas of the Gibraltar Government's responsibilities under the Constitution. Such significant actions include in particular:

- (a) any amendments to be made to the Agreement;
- (b) entering into, amending or terminating any supplementing agreements referred to in Article 4 of the Agreement;
- (c) entering into, amending or terminating any of the Administrative Arrangements referred to in the Agreement.

Dispute resolution

The United Kingdom Government and the Gibraltar Government will work closely together in every aspect, and at every stage, of the dispute settlement procedure established under Part 6 of the Agreement.

Whenever a dispute concerns an issue that falls within the Gibraltar Government's responsibilities under the Constitution, the United Kingdom will, other than in the most exceptional circumstances, fully consult the Gibraltar Government and follow its wishes and views in relation to every aspect of the dispute settlement procedure set out in Part 6 of the Agreement including, but not limited to, the initiation of a dispute settlement procedure, the nature of compliance and temporary measures, the suspension and termination of arbitration proceedings and the nature of mutually agreed solutions.

The Gibraltar Government will nominate individuals willing to serve as members of an arbitration tribunal pursuant to the sub-list to be established pursuant to Article 319(1)(b) of the Agreement.

Termination and Suspension

Consistently with the principle that the United Kingdom Government has adhered to throughout the negotiations – “nothing about Gibraltar without Gibraltar”- and consistently with the principle of the Double Lock, the United Kingdom Government will exercise its powers on the termination of the Agreement pursuant to Article 66 or Article 334 of the Agreement only following full consultation with the Government of Gibraltar. In any event, the United Kingdom Government will not, other than in the most exceptional circumstances, take the necessary steps with a view of terminating the Agreement unless termination is supported by:

- (a) a motion carried by a majority of at least three-quarters of the total number of Members of the Gibraltar Parliament; or
- (b) a simple majority of the votes cast in a referendum of all persons entitled to vote in elections to the Gibraltar Parliament;

The United Kingdom Government will only exercise its powers in relation to the suspension of obligations pursuant to Article 67 of the Agreement following full consultation with the Government of Gibraltar and will take its opinion duly into account.

Governance

A UK-Gibraltar Joint Implementation Committee will be established to monitor progress on implementation, resolve operational issues and review cost-sharing arrangements annually.

Alongside Gibraltar's future relationship with the EU, the United Kingdom Government and the Government of Gibraltar also reaffirm their intention to ensure that the valued and historic links between the United Kingdom and Gibraltar grow, deepen and endure.

Signed at Brussels on 14 July 2026.

STEPHEN DOUGHTY MP

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR EUROPE,
NORTH AMERICA AND UK
OVERSEAS TERRITORIES**

**For His Majesty's Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland**

HON FABIAN PICARDO KC MP

CHIEF MINISTER

**For His Majesty's Government of
Gibraltar**