

Question for written answer E-003142/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
José Ramón Bauzá Díaz (Renew)

Subject: EU-UK agreement on the British colony of Gibraltar

Following the United Kingdom's notification of its intention to leave the European Union, the European Council adopted guidelines in March 2017 which served as a framework for the – now concluded – withdrawal negotiations. These guidelines stated that no agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom could apply to the territory of Gibraltar without there being an agreement between the Kingdom of Spain and the United Kingdom.

On 31 December, Spain and the United Kingdom reached an agreement in principle which should serve as a basis for the Commission to negotiate a specific treaty on the colony with the United Kingdom within the subsequent six months.

With but a few days to go till the expiry of the period agreed for the negotiation of such an agreement, and given the importance of providing legal certainty to the relationship:

1. When does the Commission envisage that such a treaty on Gibraltar will be adopted?
2. Will this agreement mean that Spain, as the Member State responsible for controlling access to the Schengen area, will be responsible for border controls at the port and airport of Gibraltar?
3. Will it provide for the application to Gibraltar of EU rules on VAT and excise duties such as those relating to tobacco, alcohol and fuels?