



Gibraltar House, London

HM Government of Gibraltar

Stuart Stoner
Clerk to the House of Lords European Union Select Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

18th October 2018

Dear Stuart,

I would like to thank the Committee for asking for a view from HM Government of Gibraltar (HMGoG) on the recently issued technical paper on funding for the British Overseas Territories.

The HMGoG department that deals with EU funding in Gibraltar has expressed satisfaction with the arrangements that HMG have made in respect of the funding we have been obtaining from EU programmes. The question remains, however, what level of support would continue to be available after 2020.

Separately, and not an issue raised explicitly in the UK government technical information sheet *Funding for British Overseas Territories if there's no Brexit deal*, can I flag up with the Committee that Gibraltar, prior to the Brexit referendum, and over a 15 month period, was in fairly advanced discussions with the European Investment Bank on the possibility of a sizeable loan in relation to environmentally important infrastructure projects. Although funding is available to HMGoG from other institutions, the EIB offers a very attractive lower rate of interest and good repayment arrangements.

As a consequence of the referendum result, our quite positive engagement with the EIB, which had led to them issuing a terms sheet, was frozen. The process of Brexit puts that opportunity in doubt and therefore HMG support for our access to an EIB loan, or its equivalent, for what are essential investments in Gibraltar's energy and waste water sector would be very helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Dominique Searle MBE
Gibraltar Representative to the UK