

EU angers UK by calling Gibraltar a 'colony'

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The United Kingdom has objected to the European Union's use of the word "colony" to describe the island of Gibraltar. The European Council (a body that defines the EU's political direction) produced a document regarding UK nationals travelling to the EU after Brexit. It says in a footnote: "Gibraltar is a colony of the British Crown. There is a controversy between Spain and the UK concerning the sovereignty over Gibraltar, a territory for which a solution has to be reached." A UK government spokesperson said: "Gibraltar is not a colony and it is completely inappropriate to describe it in this way. She added: "Gibraltar is a full part of the UK family....This will not change due to our exit from the EU."

Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory located in the Mediterranean Sea between Spain and Morocco. It is home to over 30,000 people. In 1704, AngloDutch forces captured it from Spain during a war. Spain handed Gibraltar to Great Britain in a 1713 treaty. However, Spain still asserts a claim to the territory. It wants Gibraltar excluded from all postBrexit agreements between the UK and the EU. Gibraltar rejected proposals for shared UK-Spanish sovereignty by 99% to 1% in a 2002 referendum. Gibraltar's Chief Minister has accused Spain of bullying. He said: "No one will be surprised to hear the Spanish government making provocative statements in respect of Gibraltar."



Sources:
bbc.com / reuters.com /
wikipedia.org



1. The European Council is responsible for the EU's political direction. T / F
2. The word "colony" was written at the top of an EU document. T / F
3. The UK said Gibraltar was part of the EU family. T / F
4. The UK said Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory. T / F
5. Ninety-nine per cent of Gibraltarians voted against joint UK-Spanish rule. T / F



1. What do you think of the idea of colonies?
2. What will happen in the UK after the UK leaves the EU?
3. What controversies are there in your country?
4. What countries does your country have with disputes with?
5. Should all colonies get their independence?