# UK Firm on Sovereignty Over Gibraltar as EU Border Talks Continue



**UK Reaffirms Sovereignty Over Gibraltar Amid EU Border Talks**

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Prime Minister David Cameron has firmly stated that the UK’s sovereignty over Gibraltar will remain unchanged during ongoing border negotiations with the European Union. The assertion comes amid discussions aimed at finalizing post-Brexit arrangements concerning Gibraltar, a British Overseas Territory located on the southern tip of Spain.

Conservative MPs have voiced strong opposition to proposals allowing EU border guards to conduct immigration checks at Gibraltar’s airport, which also functions as a Royal Air Force base. The suggested measures would enable Gibraltar to join the Schengen Zone, allowing passport-free travel but requiring fingerprinting for travelers entering from the UK.

The debates are sensitive due to the long-standing Spanish claim over Gibraltar. Cameron emphasized that any agreement must guarantee the British military base’s operations, maintain UK sovereignty over every part of Gibraltar, and secure the Gibraltar government’s full consent.

The European Scrutiny Committee has raised concerns about the implications for residents and potential sovereignty challenges posed by the involvement of EU Frontex border guards. Despite these issues, Cameron supports a "fluid border" to ease daily crossings, which currently see long delays.

A joint UK-EU statement last week indicated that an agreement is nearing completion. However, the final terms must align with the UK and Gibraltar's red lines, with no deal being preferred over an unfavorable one.

**Gibraltar and Brexit Context**

Gibraltar voted overwhelmingly against Brexit, with 96% favoring to remain in the EU. The territory's 15,000 daily border crossings underscore the need for a workable solution. Gibraltar’s Chief Minister Fabian Picardo recently criticized Tory MPs for questioning the sovereignty safeguards in the proposed deal and stated that it would not affect British sovereignty.

The situation remains closely monitored, with the final outcome expected to resolve the complex post-Brexit border arrangements.