

Gibraltar Residency: Myth vs Reality

Myth 1: Spain Can Block British Residents

Reality: Spain can object only on Schengen security grounds and only within a defined timeframe. It cannot impose demographic or political limits.

Myth 2: Residency Ends After Two Years

Reality: Documents migrate within two years. Status does not automatically lapse.

Myth 3: Gibraltar Has Lost Control of Immigration

Reality: Gibraltar retains control of eligibility criteria. Spain's role is limited to security screening before permit issuance.

Myth 4: Public Policy Means "Whatever Spain Decides"

Reality: Public policy is an EU law concept requiring a genuine and serious threat based on personal conduct.

Myth 5: Property Purchases Are Now Too Risky

Reality: Transactions may become conditional on permit issuance, but similar systems operate globally without deterring investment.

The Bottom Line

The treaty introduces procedural screening, not political control. The greater determinant of future demand will be Gibraltar's domestic residency criteria.