

## Q&A summary of GBC interview with Deputy Chief Minister on 17 December 2025 on the Treaty Process (prepared by AI)

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### **Q: Why has this process taken so long and been so difficult?**

**A:** The negotiations have been long, complex and absorbing. In the final phase, much of the work has been done remotely, complicated further by circumstances, including the Chief Minister continuing to work despite serious medical difficulties.

### **Q: Why did the European Commission announce progress before the Gibraltar Government?**

**A:** This is an international treaty, and there is a convention that parties restrain public comment. Once the Commission informs member states, containing the information becomes impossible, so it is better to confirm that negotiations have concluded and move to the next phase.

### **Q: Does this mean the treaty is finished?**

**A:** No. It closes the negotiation phase. What follows is a legal scrub and technical review to ensure the text is consistent, coherent and legally sound. That alone can take several weeks.

### **Q: What exactly is a “legal scrub”?**

**A:** Lawyers from the UK and the EU review the entire treaty, checking consistency, structure, headings, numbering and legal accuracy from start to finish. It can be a lengthy and detailed process.

### **Q: What happens after the legal scrub?**

**A:** The agreed English text is translated into all 24 official EU languages. Each version carries equal legal weight. The translations are done simultaneously by EU translators.

### **Q: When is the treaty signed, and will it be public?**

**A:** Once translations are complete, the treaty can be signed by the UK and the EU. The signing could be a simple or ceremonial event. The consolidated treaty text will be published before ratification.

### **Q: What is the ratification process?**

**A:** There are two parallel processes:

- **Gibraltar & UK:** Debate and motion in the Gibraltar Parliament, followed by UK parliamentary ratification (up to 21 days).
- **EU:** Approval by the European Council, then consent by the European Parliament.

### **Q: Could the European Parliament block it?**

**A:** In theory, yes, but it is highly unlikely. The treaty has been negotiated by the Commission, supported by member states including Spain, and ratification requires a majority vote in the Parliament.

### **Q: When will the treaty come into force?**

**A:** The Deputy Chief Minister declined to give a firm timetable. All sides want progress as quickly as possible, but it will be next year, followed by an implementation period after ratification.

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