



PROCEEDINGS OF THE GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

MORNING SESSION: 10.34 a.m. – 12.13 p.m.

Gibraltar, Tuesday, 31st March 2026

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The Gibraltar Parliament

The Parliament met at 10.35 a.m.

[MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Judge K Ramagge GMH in the Chair]

[CLERK TO THE PARLIAMENT: P A Borge McCarthy in attendance]

Order of the Day

5

Clerk: Meeting of Parliament, Tuesday the 31st of March 2026.

BILLS

FIRST AND SECOND READING

The Gambling (Amendment) Act 2026 - First Reading Approved

10 **Clerk:** Bills First and Second Reading continued.
A Bill for an Act to amend the Gambling Act 2025.
The Hon. Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry.

Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry (Hon. N Feetham): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Gambling Act 2025 be read a first time.

15 **Madam Speaker:** I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Gambling Act 2025, be read a first time. (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

20 **Clerk:** The Gambling (Amendment) Act 2026.

The Gambling (Amendment) Act 2026 - Second Reading Approved

25 **Minister for Justice, Trade and Industry (Hon. N Feetham):** I have the honour to move that the Bill be now read a second time. Madam Speaker, as background for the benefit of Hansard, when taking the Gambling Bill through the Committee Stage last week, we referred to the amendments set out in my original letter dated the 8th October 2025. Inadvertently, the House did not refer to the subsequent amendments contained in my letter dated the 19th of February

2026. This was a collective omission. While Parliament is sovereign, we as its Members, being human, are not infallible. *(Interjections and laughter)*

30 As a result, those amendments were not called out during the Committee Stage and were therefore not passed. Given that the Bill had already received royal assent from His Excellency the Governor, without incorporating this second set of amendments, we have taken steps to rectify the position through the introduction of an urgent Bill now before this House to give effect to them. This Bill has been certified as urgent by the Chief Minister and is now properly before hon.
35 Members. Since I have updated this House when presenting the new Bill last week, I am pleased to inform hon. Members that a new licence has been issued, notwithstanding that the Act could not yet be brought into force and that the licence had to be issued under the existing legislation. As I have previously indicated during those proceedings, engagement with industry participants at the Consensus Hong Kong Conference in February this year generated significant interest in
40 Gibraltar's regulatory offering, and a licence application was already in progress. That licence has now been granted, allowing the company to operate in the prediction markets. We expect this to be a substantial area of potential growth for Gibraltar. Madam Speaker, I am advised that this represents record timing for the issue of a regulatory licence in Gibraltar. This reflects the undertaking I personally gave as licencing authority under the old Act to the applicant. It also
45 demonstrates the pace at which we must sometimes act to safeguard Gibraltar's vital economic interests. There is no room for complacency and no room for unnecessary delay in enabling responsible economic activity in these important sectors. We must continue to adapt decisively to a changing global economic environment and adapt we must. Importantly, this aligns with the Government's strategic objective of diversification. Further information will be made public in the
50 coming days. Since the introduction of the recent UK gambling duty increases, I have taken a more direct responsibility for promoting Gibraltar's regulatory offering. This has included attending international conferences, as I have previously informed this House, to raise awareness and attract new business to Gibraltar, a role I am very familiar with from many years in private legal practise. On Thursday, I will be meeting the man of our Secretariat in Strasbourg and then heading
55 for London, where we will be meeting another potential gaming applicant. The team at the Ministry in these areas are relatively new but highly motivated and they are involved in working closely with me and ensuring that the skills required for the future are nurtured and retained within the civil service. That is my commitment and it is through this combination of experience, guidance and practical engagement that will help strengthen Gibraltar's position as a leading and
60 competitive jurisdiction in these areas. I commend this Bill to the House.

Madam Speaker: Before I put the question does any hon. Member wish to speak on the general principles or merits of the Bill? The Hon. Mr. Clinton.

65 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Thank you Madam Speaker. As the Minister already knows he has the support the Opposition in respect of his original proposed amendment at the Committee Stage and therefore, obviously, we have no problem with this amending Bill. I had prepared a five-hour speech, but I forgot my notes. Needless to say, we will be supporting this, Bill. Thank you.

70 **Madam Speaker:** Does any hon. Member wish to speak on the general principles or merits of the Bill? Does the mover wish to reply?

Hon. N Feetham: We are grateful on this side of the House. Thank you.

75 **Madam Speaker: Madam Speaker:** I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Gambling Act 2025, be read a second time. Those in favour? **(Members: Aye.)** Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Gambling (Amendment) Act 2026.

80 **Hon. N Feetham:** I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today, if all hon. Members agree.

Madam Speaker: Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today. (**Members:** Aye.)

85

The Climate Change (Amendment) Act 2026 –
First Reading Approved

90 **Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to amend the Climate Change Act 2019 in order to align the interim target for 2030 and establish a negative emissions target in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 (European Climate Law) and to establish additional effort sharing targets and related reports pursuant to EU Regulation 2018/842 as amended by EU Regulation 2023/857 (the Effort Sharing Regulation), and for connected purposes.

The Hon. Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change.

95 **Minister for the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Education (Hon. Prof. J E Cortes):** Madam Speaker, with your leave and before I commence the readings, in order to save time, as I will be taking six Bills this morning, I am going to make some general comments on all six Bills.

100 Firstly, they have been certified urgent by the Chief Minister. Secondly, Madam Speaker, as required by Section 22.5 of the Environmental Governance Act, I declare that these Bills, if enacted, contain provisions which will be environmental law. Further, as required by Section 22.6 of said Act, in my view, the Bill will not have the effect of reducing the level of environmental protection provided for by any existing environmental law. As required by Section 22.10 of the Act, I will be publishing a notice to this effect in the Gibraltar Gazette. Madam Speaker, also in relation to all six Bills that I will be taking this morning, and in order to save me having to repeat it on every occasion, the House will be aware that the agreement between the UK and the EU, specifically Part 3, Chapter 5, require that EU laws relating to the environment and climate change be incorporated into Gibraltar law, and these Bills are proposed in compliance with that obligation. So, having said that, as a preamble, Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that

105 a Bill for an Act to amend the Climate Change Act 2019 in order to align the interim target for 2030 and establish a negative emissions target in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 (European Climate Law) and to establish additional effort-sharing targets and related reports pursuant to EU Regulation 2018/842, as amended by EU Regulation 2023/857 (the effort-sharing regulation) and for connected purposes, be read a first time.

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Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Climate Change Act 2019 in order to align the interim target for 2030 and establish a negative emissions target in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 (European Climate Law) and to establish additional effort sharing targets and related reports pursuant to EU Regulation 2018/842 as amended by EU Regulation 2023/857 (the Effort Sharing Regulation), and for connected purposes, be read a first time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

120

Clerk: The Climate Change (Amendment) Act 2026.

The Climate Change (Amendment) Act 2026 –
Second Reading Approved

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam Speaker, I would also like to draw the attention of this House to amendments which I propose to take at Committee Stage in a letter to yourself dated 27th March. I would also like to say, Madam Speaker, that in the case of all six Bills, I have had preliminary discussions with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition last week.

Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that the Bill now be read a second time. Madam Speaker, this Bill is necessary to comply with our international obligations. I want to obviously emphasise that Gibraltar's policy intention has always been to uphold environmental standards at least equivalent to those of the European Union. The amendments contained in this Bill are not simply a matter of compliance. They reflect the Government's belief that tackling climate change is one of the defining challenges of our time. Specifically, Madam Speaker, the Bill amends section 9(1) of the Climate Change Act 2019 to increase Gibraltar's interim emissions reduction target for 2030. Currently, the Act requires a reduction of at least 42% from the baseline by 2030. The Bill increases that target to 55%. It introduces a new section 8A which establishes a negative emissions target. The Bill introduces several new provisions to implement the effort-sharing regulation and amends section 24 of the Act to add nitrogen trifluoride to the list of greenhouse gases.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also strengthens Gibraltar's approach to climate adaptation. There will be a national plan which now will be required to specify policy measures to reduce Gibraltar's vulnerability to the negative effects of climate change. The planning cycle has also been extended from four to five years, reflecting the increased scope of the plan. The Bill amends section 3 to require that all Government policies take into account the emissions reduction targets. The Bill introduces new reporting obligations in relation to the effort-sharing target.

These provisions ensure transparency and accountability, and that Parliament and the public are kept fully informed of Gibraltar's progress. Finally, the Bill introduces a new section 3A providing a limitation of liability. Madam Speaker, in summary, the Bill strengthens our 2030 target, establishes a framework for negative emissions after 2050, implements effort-sharing for key sectors, enhances adaptation planning and ensures a transition to allow a low-carbon future. Madam Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.

Madam Speaker: Before I put the question does any hon. Member wish to speak on the general principles or merits of the Bill? The Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. K Azopardi: Madam Speaker, I rise again for the same reasons as my hon. Colleague the Minister has said. I am going to take these Bills on the environment this morning, in the absence of the Hon. Mr. Origo, who is our environment shadow, because he underwent minor surgery on Friday and therefore is unable to attend this week in this House. Madam Speaker, we will support this, Bill. As I understand, this is a Bill not only that stems from the agreement — indeed all the Bills that are before us today stem from the agreement — but as I understand the conversations that we had with the Hon. Minister, which my hon. Colleague Mr. Origo did participate in as well, these are Bills that, had we remained in the EU, we would have had to have brought in any event. So, in some respects, there are things that will be done in the course of the period up to 10 April that inevitably stem from the agreement as stand-alone agreements, some of which we discussed yesterday. But these are not of that nature only. They stem from the agreement, but had we not had the agreement and remained in the EU, we would have had to have done them anyway. So, these Bills fall into quite a different category. We will support this Bill and, as we will see when I get to the other Bills, we will also support the other Bills for the same reason.

Madam Speaker: If no other hon. Member wish to speak, does the mover wish to reply?

Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Madam Speaker, I am grateful to the Leader of the Opposition for communicating his support and also to the Hon. Mr. Origo, who I do confirm, and I apologise for not mentioning him earlier. We met and discussed, and I welcome this. He is, in fact, correct. These are Bills that we would have had to incorporate into our law in any case, had we remained, as the majority of Gibraltar wanted, within the European Union. So, Madam Speaker, I have nothing further to add and commend the Bill to the House.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Climate Change Act 2019 in order to align the interim target for 2030 and establish a negative emissions target in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 (European Climate Law) and to establish additional effort sharing targets and related reports pursuant to EU Regulation 2018/842 as amended by EU Regulation 2023/857 (the Effort Sharing Regulation), and for connected purposes, be read a second time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Climate Change (Amendment) Act 2026.

Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today, if all hon. Members agree.

Madam Speaker: Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today. (**Members:** Aye.)

**The Deforestation (Market Access and Due Diligence) Act 2026 –
First Reading Approved**

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to make provision for the implementation in Gibraltar law of the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023, for prohibiting the placing and making available on the market of certain commodities and products unless they are deforestation-free and produced in accordance with the laws of the country of production; to impose due diligence obligations on operators, downstream operators and traders; to designate a competent authority and confer enforcement powers; to create offences and provide for penalties; to establish a substantiated concerns mechanism; to recognise equivalent compliance under certain foreign regimes; to enable subsidiary legislation for implementation and dynamic alignment; and for connected purposes.

The Hon. Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change.

Minister for the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Education (Hon. Prof. J E Cortes): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to make provision for the implementation in Gibraltar law of the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023, for prohibiting the placing and making available on the market of certain commodities and products unless they are deforestation-free and produced in accordance with the laws of the country of production; to impose due diligence obligations on operators, downstream operators and traders; to designate a competent authority and confer enforcement powers; to create offences and provide for penalties; to establish a substantiated concerns mechanism; to recognise equivalent compliance under certain foreign regimes; to enable subsidiary legislation for implementation and dynamic alignment; and for connected purposes, be read a first time.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to make provision for the implementation in Gibraltar law of the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament

and of the Council of 31 May 2023, for prohibiting the placing and making available on the market of certain commodities and products unless they are deforestation-free and produced in accordance with the laws of the country of production; to impose due diligence obligations on operators, downstream operators and traders; to designate a competent authority and confer enforcement powers; to create offences and provide for penalties; to establish a substantiated concerns mechanism; to recognise equivalent compliance under certain foreign regimes; to enable subsidiary legislation for implementation and dynamic alignment; and for connected purposes, be read a first time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Deforestation (Market Access and Due Diligence) Act 2026.

**The Deforestation (Market Access and Due Diligence) Act 2026 –
Second Reading Approved**

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that the Bill be now read a second time, and I draw the House's attention to the letter to you, Madam Speaker, dated 27th March, which proposes amendments to be taken at Committee Stage. Madam Speaker, the EU Deforestation Regulation seeks to ensure that products placed on the market are not associated with deforestation or forest degradation and that they have been produced in accordance with the laws of the country of production. This Bill brings these requirements into Gibraltar law. Madam Speaker, the Regulation applies to seven relevant commodities, cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil, palm, rubber, soy and wood, as well as a wide range of products derived from them. These commodities have been identified as the primary drivers of deforestation linked to agricultural expansion. Madam Speaker, the Bill applies to downstream operators and traders who make available on the Gibraltar market relevant products, being those commodities and products listed in the Schedule. The heart of this Bill is the market access prohibition contained in Section 5. An operator must not place a relevant product on the Gibraltar market unless several conditions are met. Downstream operators and traders must verify that products they place on the market are covered by valid due diligence statements and must collect and retain the required supply chain information. The Bill imposes comprehensive due diligence obligations on operators. Operators must retain records of their due diligence for at least five years. The Bill provides a simplified regime for micro and small operators. It designates a Collector of Customs as the competent authority for Gibraltar. The Bill creates criminal offences for non-compliance with its requirements.

Madam Speaker, the Bill provides for the establishment or recognition of an information system for the submission and storage of due diligence statements and declarations. It also establishes a mechanism by which any person may submit substantiated concerns to the competent authority. The Schedule to the Bill lists the relevant products to which the Act applies. In respect to the practical effects of this legislation in Gibraltar, as a matter of practical reality, Gibraltar does not produce cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil, palm, rubber, soy or wood for commercial purposes. The Bill will therefore primarily affect importers and traders who bring such products into Gibraltar for sale or distribution. Madam Speaker, in summary, the Bill prohibits the placing on the Gibraltar market of products associated with forestation and forest degradation. It implements our obligations under the UK-EU agreement and also reflects our commitment to upholding the highest environmental standards and playing our part in addressing the global challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss and deforestation. Madam Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.

Madam Speaker: Before I put the question does any hon. Member wish to speak on the General Principles and Merits of the Bill? Yes, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. K Azopardi: Madam Speaker, for the reasons indicated earlier, we will support the Bill. As we understand this Bill, and as indeed the Minister has just said, it will primarily impact imported products and businesses because they have to collect information relating to the production of a product including geolocation, date, time, range of production, et cetera, and of course there are these restrictions on what can be imported. So, to that extent, I know my hon. Colleague Mr. Origo did have a question and I am going to put it to the Hon. Minister, if I may, for clarification on the issue of principles because of course we understand that this is a requirement which must be passed and we will support. But to the extent that it does have impact on traders who trade in some of these products and that they may have imported these products without information because, say for example, they are imported from non-EU countries and they do not have information on the land use rights of the supplier of the goods, et cetera, how is that going to work in terms of the immediate impact? So, we note, for example, that the commencement provisions of the Act would allow commencement of the Act at staggered stages in the normal way, if the Minister should so decide. It may be that the Minister needs to engage with the business community on these issues to ensure that there are suitable transitional provisions or time so that people do not bring in certain products and not others. It may be that post-Treaty, because the importation will now be through the land Frontier and it may be that we will get them from certain EU countries, it is less likely for this to happen because there will be EU requirements, but to the extent that there are issues here, we would ask for reassurance that the Government is sighted and engaged with the business community on suitable transitionals that may need to be put in place so that these products are reduced and eliminated to the extent that they exist today.

Madam Speaker: Does any hon. Member wish to speak on the General Principles and Merits of the Bill? I will call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Madam Speaker, yes, I can assure the Hon. Leader of the Opposition we had similar issues when we passed the Ivory Act and the competent authority being the Collector of Customs will engage with the trade. Provided they produce evidence of importation prior to this coming into effect, there are transitional arrangements which the Collector of Customs will ensure are put into effect. So, I can reassure the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the business community that that will be dealt with. I once again acknowledge and I am grateful for the support and commend the Bill to the House.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to make provision for the implementation in Gibraltar law of the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023, for prohibiting the placing and making available on the market of certain commodities and products unless they are deforestation-free and produced in accordance with the laws of the country of production; to impose due diligence obligations on operators, downstream operators and traders; to designate a competent authority and confer enforcement powers; to create offences and provide for penalties; to establish a substantiated concerns mechanism; to recognise equivalent compliance under certain foreign regimes; to enable subsidiary legislation for implementation and dynamic alignment; and for connected purposes, be read a second time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Deforestation (Market Access and Due Diligence) Act 2026.

Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today, if all hon. Members agree.

Madam Speaker: Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today. (**Members:** Aye.)

The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) (Amendment) Act
2026 –
First Reading Approved

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Act 2014 to give effect in the law of Gibraltar to Regulation (EU) 2024/590 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 February 2024 on substances that deplete the ozone layer and to Regulation (EU) 2024/573 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 February 2024 on fluorinated greenhouse gases and for connected purposes.

The Hon. Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change.

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Act 2014 to give effect in the law of Gibraltar to Regulation (EU) 2024/590 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 February 2024 on substances that deplete the ozone layer and to Regulation (EU) 2024/573 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 February 2024 on fluorinated greenhouse gases and for connected purposes, be read a first time.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Act 2014 to give effect in the law of Gibraltar to Regulation (EU) 2024/590 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 February 2024 on substances that deplete the ozone layer and to Regulation (EU) 2024/573 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 February 2024 on fluorinated greenhouse gases and for connected purposes, be read a first time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) (Amendment) Act 2026.

The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) (Amendment) Act
2026 –
Second Reading Approved

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that the Bill be now read a second time and once again, Madam Speaker, I draw the attention of the House to my letter of 27th March 2026 to your good self, where I propose to introduce a couple of amendments at Committee Stage.

Madam Speaker, as we know, ozone depleting substances cause significant damage to the ozone layer with adverse effects on human health and ecosystems. The EU regulations establish ambitious controls on these substances contributing to the Paris Agreement objectives. Madam Speaker, firstly, the Bill updates all statutory references in the Principal Act to reflect the new EU regulations. The definitions of the ozone regulation and the FGAS regulation are substituted to refer to the relevant regulations. The Bill substitutes the penalty provisions in their entirety to align with the deterrent requirements of the EU regulations. In addition to fines, courts may order confiscation of illegally obtained substances, withdrawal from the market and temporary prohibitions on dealing in controlled substances. A new Section 8A establishes licencing and registration requirements for persons engaged in activities involving the controlled substances. The Bill introduces new obligations on building owners and contractors in relation to renovation, refurbishment or demolition activities. Madam Speaker, the Bill requires the establishment of an

extended producer responsibility scheme by December 2027. The Bill enhances customs enforcement powers in line with the EU regulations and there are new reporting obligations established. Finally, Madam Speaker, the Bill provides the Minister with general regulation-making powers for the purposes of giving full effect to the Act and the EU regulations. Madam Speaker, I want to mention also that in conjunction with this Bill the Government has prepared the Ozone Depleting Substances (Qualifications) (Amendment) Regulations 2026. In relation to matters regarding Gibraltar's approach to the implementation, because Gibraltar will not be an EU Member State, the Bill reflects that Gibraltar will not participate directly in the EU's electronic licencing system. Instead, reporting obligations are directed to the Gibraltar Environmental Agency and registration requirements are to be established under schemes administered by the Minister.

Madam Speaker, in conclusion, the Bill represents an important step in maintaining Gibraltar's environmental protection framework in line with the highest international standards. I commend the Bill to the House.

Madam Speaker: Does any hon. Member wish to speak on the General Principles and Merits of the Bill? Yes, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. K Azopardi: Madam Speaker, we will support the Bill. This Bill raises a similar point, I suppose, to the Bill that we have just taken, which is the impact on the business community because, as the explanatory memorandum says, the Act introduces provisions imposing recovery obligations on building owners and contractors during renovation, refurbishing or demolition works involving foam panels or laminated boards. So, it, in practise, imposes requirements as to how things are going to be constructed, removed, et cetera. So, to that extent, can the Minister confirm that the Government will engage so as to — and presumably this will be done via the planning authorities — but the wider community needs to be informed of these requirements, notwithstanding the fact that they would have been the case had we been in the EU. Clearly, now those engaged in planning processes or in demolition or in construction or contractors need to be aware of these new requirements and, equally, there needs to be suitable transitionals so that people are aware of what they need to be doing and it cannot impact, presumably, on developments that were already in the course of being built before the coming into effect of this Act, I assume. So, I would be grateful for assurances from the Minister in that regard, but we will, of course, support the Bill.

Madam Speaker: If no other hon. Member wishes to speak, then I call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Yes, once again, Madam Speaker, I am very happy to give the Leader of the Opposition the assurance that the Department of Environment is preparing some guidelines which it will publish and make available to the business community, particularly to contractors and others who are involved in this industry, to ensure that they are aware of the provisions and there will be, obviously, flexibility in transitional arrangements where things have already happened and need to be taken into account. So, I can give that assurance to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and to the business community. So, I propose that we pass this Bill.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Act 2014 to give effect in the law of Gibraltar to Regulation (EU) 2024/590 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 February 2024 on substances that deplete the ozone layer and to Regulation (EU) 2024/573 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 February 2024 on fluorinated greenhouse gases and for connected purposes, be read a second time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) (Amendment) Act 2026.

Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today, if all hon. Members agree.

Madam Speaker: Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today. **(Members: Aye.)**

**The Nature Restoration Act 2026 -
First Reading Approved**

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to provide for the restoration of ecosystems in Gibraltar in accordance with the standards and objectives contained in Regulation (EU) 2024/1991; to establish binding restoration targets; to require the preparation and implementation of a National Restoration Plan; and for connected purposes.

The Hon. Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change.

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to provide for the restoration of ecosystems in Gibraltar in accordance with the standards and objectives contained in Regulation (EU) 2024/1991; to establish binding restoration targets; to require the preparation and implementation of a National Restoration Plan; and for connected purposes, be read a first time.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to provide for the restoration of ecosystems in Gibraltar in accordance with the standards and objectives contained in Regulation (EU) 2024/1991; to establish binding restoration targets; to require the preparation and implementation of a National Restoration Plan; and for connected purposes, be read a first time. Those in favour? **(Members: Aye.)** Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Nature Restoration Act 2026.

**The Nature Restoration Act 2026 -
Second Reading Approved**

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that the Bill be now read a second time. Madam Speaker, once again I draw the House's attention to my letter of 27th March proposing amendments to be taken at Committee Stage. Madam Speaker, the health of our natural ecosystems underpins the well-being of our community and the European Green Deal and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 set out an ambitious roadmap for the recovery of Europe's biodiversity. Madam Speaker, it has always been Gibraltar's policy intention to uphold environmental standards at least equivalent to those within the European Union and therefore this follows that policy. Madam Speaker, the Bill sets up a framework for Gibraltar to halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems, to restore, protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. Part 2 establishes the overarching objectives of the Bill, which are precisely to halt and reverse degradation of ecosystems. Importantly, Madam Speaker, the Bill contains a proportionality and practicability provision, the duties and targets imposed by or under the Bill are to be implemented to the extent

practicable having regard to Gibraltar's geographical size and physical circumstances. Part 3 requires the Minister to prepare and publish a national restoration plan which must include quantification of areas and ecosystems in need of restoration. The Minister should put in place restoration measures necessary to improve and condition areas of habitat types present in Gibraltar. The Bill imposes parallel obligations for marine ecosystems within British Gibraltar territorial waters. Madam Speaker, the Minister must also ensure no net loss in the total national area of urban green space. It requires the adoption of measures to improve pollinator biodiversity and to reverse the decline of pollinator populations. Madam Speaker, it also requires that the Government take reasonable steps to promote the planting of additional trees in Gibraltar consistent with ecological principles and also provides for monitoring in accordance with Article 20 of the EU Regulation. There is also a requirement for reporting at least every six years on the progress in implementing the national restoration plan that has to be prepared. Securing biodiverse ecosystems and tackling climate change are intrinsically interlinked. Nature and nature-based solutions including natural carbon stocks and sinks are fundamental for fighting the climate crisis. This Bill ensures that Gibraltar meets its Treaty obligations under the agreement whilst upholding our long-standing policy intention to maintain environmental standards at least equivalent to those within the European Union. I commend this Bill to the House.

Madam Speaker: Would any hon. Member like to speak on the General Principles and Merits of the Bill? The Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. K Azopardi: Madam Speaker, we will support the Bill, again consistent with everything I have indicated in relation to all these other Bills. I note, for example, in this — I do observe though, in relation to this Bill and indeed a couple of other Bills that are being taken today, we had a very long discussion about regulation-making powers yesterday and the width of them, but the regulation-making powers in this Bill and indeed some of the others that we are taking today are of course much tighter and more conventional in that regard. Can I ask the hon. Member to clarify, if he may, that obviously this imposes a requirement on the Government to, as he said, to prepare a national restoration plan. The hon. Member did publish the Environment Strategy some time ago — I think it might have been last year — so to what extent is this already catered for in the existing strategy? Does it add a different layer? Is it a different approach or criteria? The hon. Member said in his principal contribution that given our size we can approach compliance in a particular way. Does that mean that, for example, things that we were doing can be approached in a slightly different way, or is it already catered for, or do we have to do things as part of the strategy?

Madam Speaker: If no other hon. Member wishes to speak, I call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Yes, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to say that to a large extent our 25-year Environment Plan, which was published just a few months ago last year, already covers a lot of the EU law requirements. We had always expressed the view that we wanted to keep up to the international standards required by the European Union. So, we are there to a large extent. The only difference is that whereas that was a policy and intent, this now becomes a legal obligation. But I do not foresee much difference in what was already projected and published in our 25-year plan. I do not think we will have to make many alterations to it in order to keep to these requirements because I think we are already well on track. With that comment, Madam Speaker, I once again commend the Bill to the House.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to provide for the restoration of ecosystems in Gibraltar in accordance with the standards and objectives contained in Regulation (EU) 2024/1991; to establish binding restoration targets; to require the preparation

and implementation of a National Restoration Plan; and for connected purposes, be read a second time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

525 **Clerk:** The Nature Restoration Act 2026.

Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today, if all hon. Members agree.

530 **Madam Speaker:** Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today. (**Members:** Aye.)

**The Environmental Protection (Energy Efficiency) (Amendment) Act 2026 –
First Reading Approved**

535

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection (Energy Efficiency) Act 2009 to update the previous energy efficiency framework, setting more ambitious energy efficiency targets for 2030 and introducing enhanced measures to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

The Hon. Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change.

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Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection Energy Efficiency Act 2009 to update the previous Energy Efficiency Framework, setting more ambitious energy efficiency targets for 2030 and introducing enhanced measures to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, be read a first time.

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Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection (Energy Efficiency) Act 2009 to update the previous energy efficiency framework, setting more ambitious energy efficiency targets for 2030 and introducing enhanced measures to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, be read a first time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

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Clerk: The Environmental Protection (Energy Efficiency) (Amendment) Act 2026.

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**The Environmental Protection (Energy Efficiency) (Amendment) Act 2026 –
Second Reading Approved**

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that the Bill be now read a second time. Madam Speaker, the Bill introduces a new section 5A, which establishes the Energy Efficiency First Principle. The principle requires a competent authority to ensure that energy efficiency solutions, including demand-side resources and system flexibilities, are assessed in all planning, policy and major investment decisions. The Bill places significant emphasis on the public sector to lead by example. A new section 5B requires a competent authority, being the Minister for the Environment, to ensure that the total final energy consumption of all public bodies combined is reduced by at least 1.9% each year compared to 2021. The Bill amends section 7 to require that at least 3% of the total floor area of heated and cooled buildings owned by public bodies is renovated each year to be transformed into zero-energy buildings. Madam Speaker, the Bill amends section 9 to update the Cumulative End-Use Energy Savings Requirements. I wish to draw the House's particular

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570 attention, Madam Speaker, to the Bill's provisions on energy poverty and vulnerable customers. The Bill requires that energy efficiency measures be implemented as a priority among people affected by energy poverty, vulnerable customers, people in low-income households and certain people living in social housing. Madam Speaker, the Bill amends section 10 to require enterprises with an average annual energy consumption higher than 85 terajoules to implement a certified
575 energy management system. Enterprises consuming more than 10 terajoules annually must be subject to energy audits carried out at least every four years. The Bill, Madam Speaker, introduces new provisions for data centres recognising their growing importance and significant energy consumption. A new section 10A requires owners and operators of data centres with a power demand of at least 500 kW to make certain performance information publicly available. The Bill
580 establishes progressive criteria for efficient district heating and cooling systems. Madam Speaker, in general, it offers improved regulation of energy efficiency throughout Gibraltar. In summary, Madam Speaker, the Bill strengthens Gibraltar's energy efficiency framework in several key respects, contributing to the EU's objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. Madam Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.

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Madam Speaker: Before I put the question, would any hon. Member like to speak on the General Principles and Merits of the Bill? The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. K Azopardi: Yes, Madam Speaker, we will support the Bill. Can I just ask the Hon. Minister, if I may, there is quite a lot in this Bill on data centres. There is a wide definition of data centre.
590 There are provisions in the new section 10A that impacts on data centres, as the Hon. Minister has acknowledged in his contribution, and indeed a schedule that also sets out a detail of provisions that will impact on data centres. Now, it is in the public domain that the Government is in discussions with an operator that may wish to establish a data centre in Gibraltar, and we
595 have had exchanges across the floor of this House in respect of that, and this is a project that of course would be important for the future, inward investment and so on, and it has our support, as we have indicated. Can I ask the Minister whether, obviously the passage of this Bill is a requirement, an EU requirement and therefore must be done, but to the extent of the project that the Father of the House has been dealing with, and indeed we think is important for Gibraltar,
600 will there be an engagement between the Government and those interested in bringing that project to Gibraltar so that they are satisfied, they are aware and that indeed it is a managed impact, a new requirement that does not deter them from making an investment in Gibraltar?

Madam Speaker: No other? Yes, the Hon. Mr. Sacarello.

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Hon. C A Sacarello: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would just ask for clarification for myself and those in the public looking at this Bill. On the first page, if I may, Madam Speaker, section 4(1) refers to section 2(1)(a), deletes 2020, 20% and 2030, 32.5%, and if you look at section 4(2) it says add, and to the same section 2(1)(a), add and after energy efficiency. Would the Hon.
610 Minister be able to explain why these concrete targets have been deleted and what they have been replaced with in terms of targets?

Madam Speaker: Yes, the Hon. Mr. Clinton.

Hon. R M Clinton: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, just looking through the Bill, I noticed there are provisions here about energy poverty and there is a definition of energy poverty in section 5(h),

energy poverty meaning a household's lack of access to essential energy services where such services provide basic levels and decent standards of living and health including adequate heating, hot water, cooling, lighting and energy to power appliances in a relevant context, existing social and other relevant policies in Gibraltar caused by a

combination of factors including at least non-affordability, insufficient disposable income, high energy expenditure and poor efficiency at homes.

I note later on in section 10 of this Bill, 10(2), there is an insertion,

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the competent authorities shall in assessment of the share of energy poverty in national energy and climate plans consider the following indicators, inability to keep the home warm, arrears on utility Bills, total population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof...

which might apply to most of us.

...damp walls, floors and foundations or rotted window frames, at risk of poverty rate cuts of 0.6% of medium equivalent income after social transfers.

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I must confess, Madam Speaker, in terms of environmental impacts, something I kind of would have guessed would have been in this kind of Bill, I was wondering how the Minister intends to address this in the wider context of our public finances and what it actually practically means in terms of addressing energy poverty. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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Madam Speaker: Any other hon. Member wish to speak? In that case I call upon the mover to reply.

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Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Madam Speaker, I take those points in reverse order. Clearly, once the Bill is law, there would have to be an assessment. Some aspects may not apply in Gibraltar. There will be cases perhaps where there will have to be an assessment and then we will have to see how it applies. As I said earlier in relation to one of the other Bills, the Department will be providing guidance on the different aspects. In relation to the Hon. Mr. Sacarello's question, essentially these targets are being revised to be stricter. If the hon. Member looks at it with the actual current Act, he will see that there are changes in the targets and he will be able to compare that directly. In relation to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition's comments on data centres, I believe that those who perhaps have been doubting whether or not a data centre was something that Gibraltar wanted, and I acknowledge the fact that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition says that they welcome it too, I think they will welcome this law because this will ensure that the energy requirements are in keeping with European standards and there are data centres throughout Europe and therefore this is not something that is going to stop. It is going to make the data centre we have better because it will comply with those necessary laws. So, I am very comfortable with this, and I think that people out there will be reassured that we now have these European standards that will ensure that the data centre is one that is sustainable. With that, Madam Speaker, I once again commend the Bill to the House.

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Madam Speaker: I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection Energy Efficiency Act 2009 to update the previous Energy Efficiency Framework, setting more ambitious energy efficiency targets for 2030 and introducing enhanced measures to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, be read a second time. Those in favour? **(Members: Aye.)** Those against? Carried.

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Clerk: The Environmental Protection (Energy Efficiency) (Amendment) Act 2026.

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Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Madam Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today if all hon. Members agree?

Madam Speaker: Before I put the question do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today. **(Members: Aye.)**

**The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Amendment) Act –
First Reading Approved**

665 **Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to amend the Control of Trade in Endangered Species Act 1998 and the
Endangered Species Act 1990 for the purposes of the implementation of Article 219(4) of the
Agreement in respect of Gibraltar between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy
Community of the one part and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in
respect of Gibraltar; and for connected purposes.

670 The Hon. Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change.

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam
Speaker, I have the honour to move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Control of Trade in
Endangered Species Act 1998 and the Endangered Species Act 1990 for the purposes of the
675 implementation of Article 219(4) of the Agreement in respect of Gibraltar between the European
Union and the European Atomic Energy Community of the one part and the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of Gibraltar; and for connected purposes, be read a
first time.

680 **Madam Speaker:** I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Control
of Trade in Endangered Species Act 1998 and the Endangered Species Act 1990 for the purposes
of the implementation of Article 219(4) of the Agreement in respect of Gibraltar between the
European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community of the one part and the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of Gibraltar; and for connected
685 purposes, be read a first time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Amendment) Bill 2026.

**The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Amendment) Act –
Second Reading Approved**

690 **Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes):** Madam
Speaker, I have the honour to move that the Bill be now read a second time. Madam Speaker, the
amendments introduced by Regulation 2021/280 include updated provisions concerning permits
and certificates and apply the law in trade in endangered species to Gibraltar in relation to the
695 regulations. Madam Speaker, while the Bill is necessary to comply with our Treaty obligation, the
Government has long been committed to the protection of endangered species as has been shown
by the legislation which dates back to the 1990s when I actually had a hand in that when I was
involved in an NGO, and more recently Gibraltar's Ivory Act 2019 already exceeds the standards
of the EU regulations in regards to trade in ivory. Madam Speaker, specifically the Bill Part 2
700 introduces a new section 8A into the Act creating offences relating to the marking of specimens.
A new section 8B empowers the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Scientific
Institutions for the purposes of subsidiary legislation. Notably, Madam Speaker, because the
sturgeon is a highly endangered species, the Bill inserts a new section 8C into the 1998 Act creating
offences relating to caviar labelling. Madam Speaker, the Bill amends section 9 of the 1998 Act to
705 expand the powers of authorised officers. A new section 12A provides that electronic permits and
certificates issued under the principal regulation or subsidiary regulation have the same validity
and effect as permits and certificates in physical form. Part 3 of the Bill amends the Endangered
Species Act 1990 to complement the amendments made to the 1998 Act. Madam Speaker, Part 4
of the Bill contains transitional and savings provisions to ensure continuity and legal certainty.
710 Madam Speaker, this Bill fulfils our obligations under the agreement while reflecting the
Government's enduring commitment to upholding the highest environmental standards and

protection of endangered species by preventing the illegal wildlife trade. I commend the Bill to the House.

715 **Madam Speaker:** Before I put the question, does any hon. Member wish to speak on the merits and principles of the Bill? The Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. K Azopardi: Madam Speaker, we will support the Bill. I do note that in this particular Bill — so this is more in the nature of a question and an observation — I do note that in the title of this Bill it does make reference to it being in implementation of the agreement, the Treaty, 720 whereas the other Bills do not, and I wanted to ask the hon. Member, because my understanding had been that this would have been an EU requirement had we remained in any event because the EU is bound by this, but I was just taken by the fact that this Bill actually mentions the agreement, that this is in implementation of the agreement and the others do not, and therefore 725 I wanted to ask whether in fact this is not an EU requirement, although I had understood it was. So I do remember that this is a long-standing, of course, commitment of successive Governments on CITES because the hon. Member refers to the fact that he was instrumental in the discussions in relation to the original CITES legislation in Gibraltar in the 1990s and he will recall that when I occupied his seat we had those discussions, and he highlights — and again also as an observation 730 which does not affect, of course, our support — he highlights one of the interesting aspects of this Bill is the impact on caviar labelling. I am not a consumer of caviar, but anyone listening to this debate who does, should not be worried about consumption. As I understand it, this is all only about labelling to make sure you can get proper caviar, but we support the Bill, Madam Speaker.

735 **Madam Speaker:** Any other hon. Member wish to speak? In that case I call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Madam Speaker, I note the observation. I have no particular explanation. It has been drafted in that way. I do not think it is in conflict with what we are trying to do. I too 740 recall discussions when the Hon. Leader of the Opposition occupied my seat many, many years ago. The question of caviar is not that caviar will no longer be available. It has to be properly labelled to ensure that it comes from sustainable sources rather than, for example, wild-caught, illegally caught sturgeon. So, with those clarifications, I once again commend the Bill to the House.

745 **Madam Speaker:** I now put the question, which is that a Bill for an Act to amend the Control of Trade in Endangered Species Act 1998 and the Endangered Species Act 1990 for the purposes of the implementation of Article 219(4) of the Agreement in respect of Gibraltar between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community of the one part and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of Gibraltar; and for connected 750 purposes, be read a second time. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.

Clerk: The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Amendment) Bill 2026.

Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: Madam Speaker, for the last time this morning, I beg to give notice that 755 the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today, if all hon. Members agree.

Madam Speaker: Do all hon. Members agree that the Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Bill be taken today. (**Members:** Aye.)

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COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING

765 **Clerk:** Committee Stage and Third Reading, the Hon. Chief Minister.

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to move that the House should resolve itself into Committee to consider the following Bills clause by clause: The Treaty on Gibraltar and the European Union Bill 2026; The Gambling (Amendment) Bill 2026; The Climate Change (Amendment) Bill 2026; The Deforestation (Market Access and Due Diligence) Bill 2026; The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substance) (Amendment) Bill 2026; The Nature Restoration Bill 2026; The Environmental Protection (Energy Efficiency) (Amendment) Bill 2026; The Transport Amendment Bill 2026; and The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Amendment) Bill 2026.

775 **Madam Speaker:** The Transport Amendment Bill is not before the House, Chief Minister, so we have not taken that one. So, I will — the record will show. All those Bills except the Transport Amendment Bill.

In Committee of the whole House

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**The Treaty on Gibraltar and the European Union Bill 2026 -
Clauses considered and approved**

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to make provision for and in connection with the implementation of the Agreement in respect of Gibraltar between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community of the one part and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of Gibraltar, of the other part and for connected purposes. Clause 1.

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Madam Chair: Clause 1 stands part of the Bill. Sorry, before the Clerk reads out the remaining clauses, can I just confirm the Opposition have had sight of the proposed amendments in writing and that there is no issue with that?

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Clerk: Clause 2 as amended.

Madam Chair: Clause 2 as amended stands part of the Bill.

795 **Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo):** Madam Speaker, you are not going to require me to deal with the notice I have given then?

Madam Chair: On the amendments?

800 **Hon. Chief Minister:** You are taking the proposed amendments as read, which I am perfectly delighted with. Sorry.

Madam Chair: Well, I am in the Hon. Chief Minister's hands. I have had notice of the amendments. The Opposition have had notice of the amendments.

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Hon. K Azopardi: I would have thought, Madam Speaker, Madam Chair, that they would have to be moved to avoid the issue we had with the other one.

Madam Chair: All right, well, let us move the amendments then just to be sure.

810 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Yes, Madam Speaker. So, in clause 2, I have given notice of an amendment to include a reference to except sections 11, 12 and 16 after the reference to Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Madam Chair: All right. Opposition are content with that? Clause 2 as amended stands part of the Bill.

815 **Clerk:** Clause 3 as amended.

Hon. Chief Minister: Madam Speaker, so in clause 3, I have given notice of the amendment I indicated I would move yesterday after the speech from the Leader of the Opposition on the second reading, which is to add at the end of the definition of enactment the words, comma, other than the Gibraltar Constitution Order 2006.

Madam Chair: Clause 3 as amended stands part of the Bill.

825 **Clerk:** Clause 4.

Madam Chair: Clause 4 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 5 to 9.

830 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 5 to 9 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 10 to 12.

835 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 10 to 12 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 13 to 16.

840 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 13 to 16 stand part of the Bill.

Hon. Chief Minister: Madam Speaker, I think my hon. and Learned Colleague, Mr. Bossino, has suggested the inclusion of the word implementation before the word regulation in 13(2)(f), which we would have no difficulty with. He has moved that in writing by WhatsApp. I am sure that if he could share it in printed form with the Clerk, it could then make its way into the amendment. In 845 13(3) apparently the words implementation regulations have been included without capitalisation of the I and the R, and we would also consent to that being changed in that way if he forwards his electronic communication for printing in the appropriate way to the Clerk.

850 **Hon. D J Bossino:** I am grateful to the Hon. Chief Minister for that indication. Is he absolutely sure that he wants me to reveal the entire exchange?

Madam Chair: Well, I do not need to see the entire exchange. I would have needed to have seen notice of the amendment, which would have been helpful. In any event, we are — yes, so you are moving that amendment. Yes, all right. So therefore, clause 13 as amended stands part of the Bill, and clauses 14 to 16 stand part of the Bill.

Hon. Chief Minister: There is nothing else, Madam Speaker, that is going to be moved as an amendment until we get to 43.

860 **Clerk:** Clauses 17 to 22.

Madam Chair: Clauses 17 to 22 stand part — yes?

865 **Hon. R M Clinton:** On the conversation yesterday about section 20, and that it might be redundant given that it will be taken altogether within the forthcoming Budget, is the Government of the view they want to retain this section 20 because it is, I think, probably not even required?

Hon. Chief Minister: We have not moved an amendment to delete it, Madam Speaker.

870 **Hon. R M Clinton:** Sorry, you have not moved amendments, which means you will retain it as it is, as you wish.

Madam Chair: Clauses 17 to 22 stand part of the Bill.

875 **Clerk:** Clauses 23 to 26.

Madam Chair: Clauses 23 to 26 stand part of the Bill.

880 **Clerk:** Clauses 27 and 28.

Madam Chair: Clauses 27 and 28 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 29 to 31.

885 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 29 to 31 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 32 to 38.

890 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 32 to 38 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 39 to 42.

Madam Chair: Clauses 39 —

895 **Hon. D J Bossino:** Madam Chair, if I could, this is one of the amendments which I also suggested to the Hon. Chief Minister in my exchange, and I undertake to formally move it if that is required. In relation to 47, clause 47, sub-clause —

900 **Madam Chair:** I beg the hon. Member's pardon; we are on 39 to 42 at the moment. Nothing on 39 to 42. Clauses 39 to 42 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 43 as amended.

905 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Madam Speaker, in 43, after sub-clause 1, I have given notice of an amendment to include a new sub-clause 7, which will provide that the implementation regulations may make provision as to conditions for entitlement of identity cards or residence permits, conditions relating to public service and benefits, and any other matters connected or incidental to residence in Gibraltar. We think that we have full power already for the changes we are going to make in respect of residence rights in Gibraltar, but this is a better way of encapsulating what
910 we are going to do, how we are going to do it, and giving specific power, so that people, when reading the Bill, will also know that the power is being used in that way.

Madam Chair: May I just clarify with the Hon. Chief Minister, I heard — and I may have heard wrong — that he said after sub-clause 1. In the letter it was sub-clause 6?

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Hon. Chief Minister: After sub-clause 6, there is a new sub-clause 7. I am sorry if I misspoke.

Madam Chair: All right, so then for the record, it is after sub-clause 6. Anything on that? Clause 43 as amended stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Clauses 44 to 49.

Madam Chair: Sorry, 47?

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The Hon. D J Bossino: Yes. So, 47 sub-clause 9. Clause 47, sub-clause 9, it reads the Government shall — I think there ought to have added between shall and the power. So, the Government shall have the power to do anything necessary, as opposed to the Government shall the power.

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Hon. Chief Minister: The Government shall have the power to do anything necessary except amend the Constitution by regulation.

Madam Chair: All right, is that amendment agreed? So, clauses 44 to 46 stand part of the Bill. Clause 47 as amended stands part of the Bill. Clauses 48 and 49 stand part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Clause 50.

Madam Chair: Clause 50 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 51 to 56.

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Madam Chair: Clauses 51 to 56 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 57 as amended.

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Hon. Chief Minister: Madam Speaker, I have given notice of an amendment to clause 57 by adding any officer — sorry, before any officer, insert bracket to bracket.

Madam Chair: Clause 57 as amended stands part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Clauses 58 and 59.

Madam Chair: Clauses 58 and 59 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 60.

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Madam Chair: Clause 60 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 61.

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Madam Chair: Clause 61 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 62.

Madam Chair: Clause 62 stands part of the Bill.

965 **Clerk:** Clause 63 as amended.

Hon. Chief Minister: Clause 63 as amended. In this clause, Madam Speaker, the amendment is the one that I said I would move during the course of the second reading, which removes the reference to His Excellency the Governor being the central authority and makes it the Chief Secretary and removes subsection 2 in its entirety.

Madam Chair: Clause 63 as amended stands part of the Bill.

975 **Clerk:** Clause 64.

Madam Chair: Clause 64 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 65 to 67.

980 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 65 to 67 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 68 to 77.

985 **Madam Chair:** Clauses 68 to 77 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 78 and 79.

Madam Chair: Clauses 78 and 79 stand part of the Bill.

990 **Clerk:** Clauses 80 to 87.

Hon. J Ladislaus: Madam Chair, at clause 81(1), it reads the customs territories means the territories referred to, and it jumps to section 89 — should it have an in section 89 in there?

995 **Madam Chair:** I am taking that as an approval of the amendment. All right, clause 80 stands part of the Bill. Clause 81 as amended stands part of the Bill. Clauses 82 to 87 stand part of the Bill.

1000 **Clerk:** Clauses 88 to 93.

Madam Chair: Clauses 88 to 93 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 94 to 97.

1005 **Hon. J Ladislaus:** Madam Chair, at clause 94(1), this might be slightly pedantic, but the section applies for the purposes of the implementation of article 7 and then it says and article 246 — should it perhaps read articles 7 and 246, as it reads at subsection 2?

1010 **Hon. Chief Minister:** So just remove the plural in articles, is that the reference?

Hon. J Ladislaus: My suggestion would be for consistency that we should remove article, so the singular, so that it reads the implementation of articles 7 and 246, because at subsection 2 it reads at the bottom, are removed in accordance with articles 7 and 246.

1015 **Hon. Chief Minister:** Either of those two.

Madam Chair: Let us decide on which one.

Hon. Chief Minister: Article, then we can do that.

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Madam Chair: All right. Clause 94 as amended stands part of the Bill. Clauses 95 to 97 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 98 to 102.

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Madam Chair: Clauses 98 to 102 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 103 to 110.

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Madam Chair: Clauses 103 to 110 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 111 and 112.

Madam Chair: Clauses 111 and 112 stand part of the Bill.

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Clerk: Clauses 113 and 114.

Hon. J Ladislaus: Madam Chair, at clause 113(4), it reads the Government and any public authority shall — again it says shall the power — should it read shall have the power?

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Hon. Chief Minister: Yes.

Madam Chair: Clause 113 as amended stands part of the Bill. Clause 114 stands part of the Bill.

1045

Clerk: Clauses 115 to 117.

Madam Chair: Clauses 115 to 117 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 118 to 124.

1050

Madam Chair: Clauses 118 to 124 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 125 to 129.

1055

Madam Chair: Clauses 125 to 129 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 130 and 131.

Madam Chair: Clauses 130 and 131 stand part of the Bill.

1060

Clerk: Clauses 132 and 136.

Madam Chair: Clauses 132 to 136 stand part of the Bill.

1065

Clerk: Clauses 137 and 138.

Madam Chair: Clauses 137 and 138 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 139 to 143.

1070

Hon. J Ladislaus: Madam Chair, at clause 141, at the second line, it reads the Government shall have two power — should it read, the Government shall have the power to do anything necessary? 141.

1075

Madam Chair: Clause 141. 140(1)

Hon. J Ladislaus: 140(1), yes.

Hon. Chief Minister: Just delete the to...

1080

Hon. J Ladislaus: 141, add the — otherwise it does not read right. Shall have power, yes, for that reason.

1085

Madam Chair: All right, clause 139 stands part of the Bill. Clause 140 as amended stands part of the Bill. Clauses 141 to 143 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 144 to 146.

1090

Madam Chair: Clauses 144 to 146 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 147.

Madam Chair: Clause 147 stands part of the Bill.

1095

Clerk: Clause 148.

Madam Chair: Clause 148 stands part of the Bill.

1100

Clerk: Schedule 1 as amended.

Hon. Chief Minister: Yes, Madam Speaker, there is a proposed amendment in paragraph 14 where we should remove (1) as there is only one subsection and after determine insert a closed quotation mark to show that that is the end of the quote.

1105

Madam Chair: Schedule 1 as amended stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Schedule 2.

1110

Madam Chair: Schedule 2 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: The long title.

Madam Chair: The Long Title stands part of the Bill.

1115

**[The Gambling \(Amendment\) Act 2026 –
Clauses considered and approved](#)**

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Gambling Act 2025. Clauses 1 to 3.

Madam Chair: Clauses 1 to 3 stand part of the Bill.

1120 **Clerk:** The Long Title.

Madam Chair: The Long Title stands part of the Bill.

1125

**The Climate Change (Amendment) Act 2026 –
Clauses considered and approved**

1130 **Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to amend the Climate Change Act 2019 in order to align the interim target for 2030 and establish a negative emissions target in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 (European Climate Law) and to establish additional effort sharing targets and related reports pursuant to EU Regulation 2018/842 as amended by EU Regulation 2023/857 (the Effort Sharing Regulation), and for connected purposes. Clauses 1 and 2.

Madam Chair: Clauses 1 and 2 stand part of the Bill.

1135 **Clerk:** Clause 3 as amended.

Madam Chair: Does the Minister wish to move?

1140 **Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes):** Madam Speaker, I am happy not to comment any further. The change in my letter of 27th March refers to clause 3. I also wrote a long title and the explanatory memorandum, but if those are agreed, I have nothing further to add.

1145 **Madam Chair:** All right. Clause 3 — just for the record, clause 3(2), deleting or as implemented in Gibraltar. Clause 3 as amended stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: The Long Title as amended.

Madam Chair: The Long Title as amended stands part of the Bill.

1150

**The Deforestation (Market Access and Due Diligence) Act 2026 –
Clauses considered and approved**

1155 **Clerk:** A Bill for an Act to make provision for the implementation in Gibraltar law of the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023, for prohibiting the placing and making available on the market of certain commodities and products unless they are deforestation-free and produced in accordance with the laws of the country of production; to impose due diligence obligations on operators, downstream operators and traders; to designate a competent authority and confer enforcement powers; to create offences and provide for penalties; to establish a substantiated concerns mechanism; to recognise equivalent compliance under certain foreign regimes; to enable subsidiary legislation for implementation and dynamic alignment; and for connected purposes. Clauses 1 to 3.

1160

Madam Chair: Clauses 1 to 3 stand part of the Bill.

1165 **Clerk:** Clauses 4 and 5.

Madam Chair: Clauses 4 and 5 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 6 to 13.

1170

Madam Chair: Clauses 6 to 13 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 14 to 23.

1175

Madam Chair: Clauses 14 to 23 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 24 to 29.

Madam Chair: Clauses 24 to 29 stand part of the Bill.

1180

Clerk: Clauses 30 to 32.

Madam Chair: Clauses 30 to 32 stand part of the Bill.

1185

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Madam Chair, in my letter of 27th of March, there is a proposed amendment to Clause 33 and also to the long title, which I believe are agreed.

Madam Chair: I wonder for the purposes of Hansard we ought to —

1190

Hon. Prof. J E Cortes: The amendment —

Madam Chair: The Learned Clerk has not called out Clause 33 yet. Just a moment.

1195

Clerk: Clause 33 as amended.

Hon. Prof. J Cortes: Madam Chair, the proposal is that 33(2) maintaining alignment be substituted by creating equivalent domestic provisions to maintain alignment.

1200

Madam Chair: Clause 33 as amended stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: The Schedule.

Madam Chair: The Schedule stands part of the Bill.

1205

Clerk: The Long Title as amended.

Madam Chair: I am loath to ask the Hon. Minister to read it out, but I do think that for the purposes of Hansard —

1210

Hon. Prof. J Cortes: Yes, Madam Chair, then I will refer to my letter of 27th of March in which there are some changes to the long title.

Madam Chair: The Long Title as amended stands part of the Bill.

1215

The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) (Amendment) Act 2026 –
Clauses considered and approved

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Act 2014 to give effect in the law of Gibraltar to Regulation (EU) 2024/590 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7th February 2024 on substances that deplete the ozone layer and to Regulation (EU) 2024/573 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 February 2024 on fluorinated greenhouse gases and for connected purposes. Clauses 1 to 3.

Madam Chair: Clauses 1 to 3 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: The Long Title as amended.

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): For the purposes of Hansard, Madam Chair, as per my letter of 27th of March 2026, there is a proposal to amend the long title as per the letter.

Madam Chair: The Long Title as amended stands part of the Bill.

The Nature Restoration Act 2026 -
Clauses considered and approved

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to provide for the restoration of ecosystems in Gibraltar in accordance with the standards and objectives contained in Regulation (EU) 2024/1991; to establish binding restoration targets; to require the preparation and implementation of a National Restoration Plan; and for connected purposes. Clauses 1 and 2.

Madam Chair: Clauses 1 and 2 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 3 as amended.

Minister for Education, the Environment and Climate Change (Hon. Prof J E Cortes): Yes, once again, Madam Chair, as per my letter of 27th of March, in clause 3(1) we are proposing to, in the definition of e-Regulation, for, and I quote, and includes any amendment to or replacement of the EU Regulation that continues the same purpose and structure, end of quote, substitute, and I quote, as amended from time to time, close quote.

Madam Chair: Clause 3 as amended stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 4 to 8.

Madam Chair: Clauses 4 to 8 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 9 and 10.

Madam Chair: Clauses 9 and 10 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 11 to 18.

Madam Chair: Clauses 11 to 18 stand part of the Bill.

1265

Clerk: Clauses 19 to 23.

Madam Chair: Clauses 19 to 23 stand part of the Bill.

1270

Clerk: The Long Title as amended.

Hon. Prof. J Cortes: Once again, Madam Chair, the letter of 27th March requests the substitution of the Long Title.

1275

Madam Chair: The Long Title, as amended, stands part of the Bill.

**The Environmental Protection (Energy Efficiency) (Amendment) Act 2026 –
Clauses considered and approved**

1280

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection (Energy Efficiency) Act 2009 to update the previous energy efficiency framework, setting more ambitious energy efficiency targets for 2030 and introducing enhanced measures to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. Clauses 1 to 4.

1285

Madam Chair: Clauses 1 to 4 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 5.

Madam Chair: Clause 5 stands part of the Bill.

1290

Clerk: Clauses 6 and 7.

Madam Chair: Clauses 6 and 7 stand part of the Bill.

1295

Clerk: Clauses 8 and 9.

Madam Chair: Clauses 8 and 9 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 10.

1300

Madam Chair: Clause 10 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 11 and 12.

1305

Madam Chair: Clauses 11 and 12 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 13 to 17.

Madam Chair: Clauses 13 to 17 stand part of the Bill.

1310

Clerk: Clause 18.

Madam Chair: Clause 18 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clause 19.

1315

Madam Chair: Clause 19 stands part of the Bill.

Clerk: Clauses 20 to 22.

1320

Madam Chair: Clauses 20 to 22 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: Schedule 10B.

Madam Chair: Schedule 10B stands part of the Bill.

1325

Clerk: The Long Title

Madam Chair: The Long Title stands part of the Bill.

1330

**The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Amendment) Act –
Clauses considered and approved**

Clerk: A Bill for an Act to amend the Control of Trade in Endangered Species Act 1998 and the Endangered Species Act 1990 for the purposes of the implementation of Article 219(4) of the Agreement in respect of Gibraltar between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community of the one part and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of Gibraltar; and for connected purposes. Clauses 1 to 3.

1335

Madam Chair: Clauses 1 to 3 stand part of the Bill.

1340

Clerk: Clause 4.

Madam Chair: Clause 4 stands part of the Bill.

1345

Clerk: Clauses 5 to 7.

Madam Chair: Clauses 5 to 7 stand part of the Bill.

Clerk: The Long Title.

1350

Madam Chair: The Long Title stands part of the Bill.

1355

The Treaty on Gibraltar and the European Union Bill 2026;
The Gambling (Amendment) Bill 2026;
The Climate Change (Amendment) Bill 2026;
The Deforestation (Market Access and Due Diligence) Bill 2026;
The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substance) (Amendment) Bill
2026;
The Nature Restoration Bill 2026;
The Environmental Protection (Energy Efficiency) (Amendment) Bill 2026;
The Transport Amendment Bill 2026;
The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Amendment) Bill 2026
Third Reading approved: Bills passed

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to report that: the Treaty on Gibraltar and the European Union Bill 2026; The Gambling (Amendment) Bill 2026; The Climate Change (Amendment) Bill 2026; The Deforestation (Market Access and Due Diligence) Bill 2026; The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substance) (Amendment) Bill 2026; The Nature Restoration Bill 2026; The Environmental Protection (Energy Efficiency) (Amendment) Bill 2026; and The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Amendment) Bill 2026, have been considered in committee and agreed to, some of them with amendments, and I now move that they be read a third time and passed.

Madam Speaker: I now put the question which is that: the Treaty on Gibraltar and the European Union Bill 2026; The Gambling (Amendment) Bill 2026; The Climate Change (Amendment) Bill 2026; The Deforestation (Market Access and Due Diligence) Bill 2026; The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substance) (Amendment) Bill 2026; The Nature Restoration Bill 2026; The Environmental Protection (Energy Efficiency) (Amendment) Bill 2026; and The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Amendment) Bill 2026, have been considered in committee and agreed to with amendments and I now move that they be read a third time and passed.

Hon. F R Picardo: I call a division, Madam Speaker on this Bill.

Madam Speaker: Is that the Treaty on Gibraltar and the European Union Bill 2026?

Hon. Chief Minister: Yes.

Madam Speaker: So, I will just call it. Those in favour of Treaty on Gibraltar and the European Union Bill 2026? We will have a division.

Clerk: Division.

Voting resulted as follows:

FOR

Hon. G Arias-Vasquez
Hon. K Azopardi
Hon. Sir J J Bossano
Hon. D J Bossino
Hon. L M Bruzon
Hon. R M Clinton
Hon. Prof. J E Cortes
Hon. N Feetham
Hon. J J Garcia
Hon. J Ladislaus

AGAINST

ABSENT

Hon. G Origo
Hon. E J Reyes
Hon. A Sanchez

Hon. P A Orfila
Hon. F R Picardo
Hon. C A Sacarello
Hon. C P Santos

Madam Speaker: The ayes have it. The Treaty is passed. Carried.

1390

Madam Speaker: Those in favour of the Gambling Bill 2026. (**Members:** Aye.) Those against. Carried.

1395

Madam Speaker: Those in favour of the Climate Change (Amendment) Bill 2026. (**Members:** Aye.) Those against. Carried.

Madam Speaker: Those in favour of the Deforestation (Market Access and Due Diligence) Bill 2026. (**Members:** Aye.) Those against. Carried.

1400

Madam Speaker: Those in favour of the Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substance) (Amendment) Bill 2026. (**Members:** Aye.) Those against. Carried.

Madam Speaker: Those in favour of the Nature Restoration Bill 2026. (**Members:** Aye.) Those against. Carried.

1405

Madam Speaker: Those in favour of Environmental Protection (Energy Efficiency) (Amendment) Bill 2026. (**Members:** Aye.) Those against. Carried.

1410

Madam Speaker: Those in favour of the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Amendment) Bill 2026. (**Members:** Aye.) Those against. Carried.

Adjournment

1415

Chief Minister (Hon. F R Picardo): Well, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank all hon. Members for their support of the Bills in this House that we have dealt with in this session. And to wish Mr. Origo a speedy recovery and Mr. Reyes a happy holiday. And to say that this is probably the most important meeting that this House has had in the last 55 years since we took the European Communities Act 1972. And I was very pleased that having taken the Act, and even before it was passed, before the TGEU was passed already, the Minister with responsibility for the Environment was bringing Bills of the sort that we had brought for so many decades before, to bring us in compliance with the standards of the European Union that is a leader in the world on environmental standards and in so much else. And that we are now ready to take the next step to once again form part of the European family in our small way. And I move that the House should now adjourn Sine Die.

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1430

Madam Speaker: Before I propose the adjournment, as hon. Members are aware, it is a requirement under section 69(1) of the Constitution that the estimates of expenditure for the next financial year be circulated to hon. Members on a confidential basis not later than the 30th of April. Since the House is now not scheduled to meet until after April, I am proposing that the provisions of the Constitution will be deemed to have been met if the estimates are circulated to all hon. Members before the end of April. Is that agreed? (**Members:** Aye.)

1435 I now propose the question which is that this House do now adjourn Sine Die. I now put the question which is that this House do now adjourn Sine Die. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Passed.
This House will now adjourn Sine Die.

The House adjourned Sine Die at 1.01 p.m.