

A solution to prevent Gibraltar being used as a pawn in Brexit talks - UKIP Leader Paul Nuttall

05/04/2017 11:03 by webmaster

â€¢ European Parliament, Strasbourg, 05 April 2017

â€¢ [Paul Nuttall MEP](#), UKIP Leader (UK Independence Party, North West), Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy (EFDD) group - [@paulnuttallukip](#)

â€¢ Debate: Negotiations with the United Kingdom following its notification that it intends to withdraw from the European Union
[\[2017/2593\(RSP\)\]](#)

Transcript:

Thank you, I think what we have witnessed over the past week has been the unedifying spectacle of posturing and veiled threats.

From the ludicrous suggestion that we will be saddled with a 50 billion pounds divorce bill - although we are a net contributor to the EU budget - to the claim that no trade deal will be negotiated until the end of the Article 50 process.Â

This I guarantee would cause immense damage to the economies of the EU and would result in putting many of your citizens out of work. It is we call in the UK cutting off your nose to spite your face.

However, the most offensive positive you have taken is the proposal that Spain will have the right to veto any Brexit deal over the issue of Gibraltar.Â Â

I want to make it clear in this chamber today that the people of Gibraltar are proudly British.

In 2002, 99% of Gibraltarians voted in a referendum against shared sovereignty with Spain and the wishes of the people should be upheld.Â

I do however have a solution that will prevent Gibraltar being used as a pawn in these Brexit negotiations and indeed end Spanish claims once and for all:

Make Gibraltar a fully integrated part of the UK.

Give her and our other Overseas Territories their own Member of Parliament.Â

Give Gibraltar real influence and a voice in Westminster and send a clear message that Gibraltar is not for sale.

In this area, we, the UK, can learn from our Continental cousins, as the French give representation to their Overseas Territories, and I propose that we should to.Â Â

I have been calling for this for many years and with the unique opportunities that Brexit has given us, I believe it as an idea whose time has come.