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Statement on Removal of Claude Moraes MEP

Reacting to the removal of Claude Moraes MEP, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, said:

‘The removal of Claude Moraes from the post of rapporteur is unhelpful, unfair and unwise on behalf of the European Parliament. Mr Moraes was not just defending the British Citizens of Gibraltar. He was defending the decision of the European Parliament, which has, in effect, now folded in the face of pressure from the European Council, thereby entirely castrating the Parliament's role in the Trilogue process. This is short sighted and a reward to the nationalistic reasoning that has been deployed against Mr Moraes. The people of Gibraltar will not forget the excellent work that Claude Moraes has done. Neither will we forget those who have conspired to put their nationalistic footnotes over the rights of people. This has been a disgraceful episode in the procedure of the European Parliament and the sort of behaviour that gives succour to the cause of euroscepticism around the EU. Shame on all those who have conspired to remove Claude Moraes. History will show that when the time came, they chose the wrong side of the argument.’