

Gibraltar told to accept 'uncomfortable' life outside of EU as Brexit row explodes

The territory's Chief Minister is not optimistic about Gibraltar's future if the EU and UK fail to reach an agreement.

The Chief Minister of Gibraltar has said the territory will have an "uncomfortable" experience if the UK and, EU and Spain cannot finally agree on a post-Brexit arrangement. Fabian Picardo warned Gibraltarians that a transition phase may be necessary, which could mean some difficulties for the Rock.

In his New Year's speech, he said: "The agreement may be uncomfortable at first in some areas.

"Like joining the European Union, I may have been initially uncomfortable in 1972. But a 'no deal' would also be very uncomfortable."

Mr Picardo added that he and his colleagues are working "day and night" to reach a deal, but warned it will not be an easy dispute to resolve.

He continued: "What we are negotiating is hugely complex... From product labelling to the taxation of goods, the final treaty is likely to be hundreds of pages long.

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