



**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**STATES OF THE**

**ISLAND OF ALDERNEY**

**HANSARD**

**The Court House, Alderney, Sunday, 27th December 2020**

*All published Official Reports can be found on the  
official States of Alderney website [www.alderney.gov.gg](http://www.alderney.gov.gg)*

**Volume 8, No. 10**

**Present:**

**Mr William Tate, President**

**Members**

Mr Bill Abel

Ms Annie Burgess

Mr Kevin Gentle

Mr Christian Harris

Mr Louis Jean

Mr Graham McKinley OBE

Mr Steve Roberts

Mr Alexander Snowdon

**The Greffier of the Court**

Ms Sarah Kelly

**Business transacted**

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# States of Alderney

*The States met at 3 p.m.*

[THE PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]

## PRAYERS

*The Greffier*

## Procedural

**The President:** Thank you very much indeed.

Unusual times, and unusual process. Before I ask Madam Greffier to put the Proposition I thought it only right that I just briefly explained why it is that we should be having a meeting of the States of Alderney at three o'clock on a Sunday afternoon.

We first found out at about half past three on Christmas Eve that the UK and the EU had agreed a proposal. That proposal required the Bailiwick to consider and to decide whether or not they supported that arrangement.

The debate in the House of Commons and the House of Lords will take place on 30th December and therefore it was necessary for the three parts of the Bailiwick to consider whether or not they supported the proposals, and that decision has to be lodged as I understand it in the House of Commons Library in advance of the debate taking place in the Houses of Parliament. So in essence the UK Government needed to know whether we as a Bailiwick were supportive of the agreement that they had reached with the EU.

So that being the case, it was decided that all three jurisdictions would sit today. They would all consider the identical policy letter which had been submitted by the Policy & Resources Committee and each jurisdiction would signify whether or not they were prepared to support it.

Now, of course, it has been said that there was very short notice of this meeting and for that I apologise. I wish we had had more time. I wish we had not had to spend Christmas Day and Boxing Day putting this into place. But we had no alternative, it was the right thing to do; and in the circumstances I am going to, in due course, exercise the discretion which I am allowed within the Rules of Procedure, in order that the debate can take place today and we can move to a decision.

So I apologise for the brevity of the notice, but I think and hope everyone will agree that this was something we had to do today. And thanks to a huge amount of effort in Guernsey and a huge amount of effort in Alderney people have been working, as I say, all over Christmas in order to prepare this meeting for today, and I am very grateful to everybody who has given up their time. Hopefully, that sets the meeting in context.

## Billet d'État for Sunday, 27th December 2020

### I. The Bailiwick's Participation in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement – Propositions approved as amended

*Item I.*

*The States of Alderney is asked:*

*1. To approve the principles (set out in paragraphs 1.20 to 1.27 of the Policy Letter) governing the future relationship of the United Kingdom with the European Union consequent on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, insofar as they relate to Alderney.*

*2. To authorise the States of Guernsey Policy & Resources Committee, if it is of the view that they give satisfactory effect to the principles (set out in paragraphs 1.20 to 1.27 of the Policy Letter), to agree and to signal its approval of, on behalf of Alderney and, subject to the necessary authorisations, on behalf of Guernsey and Sark, the terms and conditions of any agreement or treaty made between Her Majesty's Government and the European Union governing the future relationship of the United Kingdom with the European Union, consequent on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, insofar as they relate to the Bailiwick.*

*3. To agree that the States will endeavour to establish arrangements to cooperate with the European Union on the recovery of claims related to VAT, customs duties and excise duties within a reasonable time frame and to authorise the States of Guernsey Policy & Resources Committee to negotiate and agree and to enter into on behalf of Alderney and, subject to the necessary authorisations, on behalf of Guernsey and Sark, any protocol, agreement or other form of instrument giving effect in the Bailiwick to the arrangements if the Committee is of the view that such instrument gives effect satisfactorily to such arrangements.*

*4. To note that the extension of the UK's World Trade Organization ('WTO') membership to the Bailiwick will take effect at the end of the Brexit transition period and to agree that there shall be implemented such measures (including legislative measures) as the Policy and Finance Committee, in relation to Alderney, the States of Guernsey Policy & Resources Committee, in relation to Guernsey and the Policy and Finance Committee of the Chief Pleas of Sark, in relation to Sark think fit for the purpose of ensuring that Alderney, Guernsey and Sark may comply and remain in compliance with obligations that arise from the extension of the UK's WTO membership to the Bailiwick.*

*5. To note the inclusion of the Bailiwick in various free trade agreements (which have previously had effect in the Bailiwick by virtue of the Bailiwick's relationship with the EU, and the operation of which has been "rolled over" by the UK) and other agreements which will take effect at the end of the Brexit transition period and to agree that there shall be implemented such measures (including legislative measures) as the Policy and Finance Committee, in relation to Alderney, the States of Guernsey Policy & Resources Committee, in relation to Guernsey and the Policy and Finance Committee of the Chief Pleas of Sark, in relation to Sark think fit for the purpose of ensuring that Alderney, Guernsey and Sark may comply and remain in compliance with obligations that arise from the inclusion of the Bailiwick in such agreements.*

6. To note that the Customs Arrangement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Bailiwick signed on 26th November, 2018 in London, will enter into effect from the end of the Brexit transition period following the exchange of letters between the UK and the Bailiwick.

7. To direct the preparation of such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to the above decisions.

**The President:** I can now move to invite Madam Greffier to read the Proposition, which is Item I on the Billet.

30

**The Greffier:** Thank you, sir, and that is The Bailiwick's Participation in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, and the States is asked to approve.

**The President:** Thank you.

35

Mr Gentle, you convened a rather unusual People's Meeting shortly before this meeting and I notice that there are one or two other members of the community who were not present at the People's Meeting. So I wonder if you could just very briefly give an account of the matters that were raised by members of the community.

40

**Mr Gentle:** Yes, sir, President, colleagues.

I convened a People's Meeting half an hour ago. I was assisted by the Executive Officer and there were several States' Members, excluding myself, present and apologies were received from Mr Dent and Mr Dean. Myself, as President was here, the Minute Secretary was the Executive Officer, with 19 members of the public and four members of the press.

45

I read on request parts 1.2 and 1.27 of the policy letter. I explained in terms of the Common Travel Area. A query was raised about the Treaty of Rome, but I did not have the answer so I will respond to the person later.

50

Clarification was given that Guernsey in the paperwork actually means the Bailiwick. Clarification was given that Policy and Finance involvement is just the first step and it will go to the States of Alderney afterwards, the full States every time.

The point was made that there were a few typos and I explained that they had been picked up by the drafters in Guernsey and they were being corrected.

That was it, sir. Thank you.

55

**The President:** Thank you very much.

Before we move on, I think, because of the significance, I am going to just read the Rule of Procedure, which allows me to shorten the period of notice for any matter to be included in the Billet, and it is set out in Rule 4.1(a) of the Rules of Procedure:

4. The matters to be included in a Billet d'État for a meeting of the States are:-

1. (a) any letter to the President, except for a letter to which Rule 4A applies, signed by the Chairman of a Committee of the States and referring to a matter which falls within the mandate of that Committee and which has been approved by a quorate meeting of that Committee (whether unanimously or by a majority), and received by the President at least 16 days before that meeting or within such other lesser time as the President may notify to Members of the States.

60

So in these unique circumstances I have exercised that discretion. I received notice of this submission, firstly, on Christmas Day and therefore I am satisfied that I can amend the period of notice to reflect that fact, and accordingly I will allow that motion to be included.

Now the motion, Mr Gentle, is to be proposed by you.

**Mr Gentle:** Yes, sir.

65 **The President:** And seconded, Mr Snowdon, by you.

**Mr Snowdon:** Yes, sir, thank you.

70 **The President:** In order that we can get this in the right sequence I can say at this stage, Mr Gentle, that you have an amendment to the Proposition that you would like to put.

**Mr Gentle:** Yes, sir, I do.

**The President:** Would you like to propose that amendment now?

75

**Mr Gentle:** President, sir, colleagues.

*Amendment:*

*1. Immediately after Proposition 6 insert the following Proposition:*

*"7. To note the contents of the letter dated 24 December 2020, relating to the Bailiwick's participation in the Agreement between the UK and the EU, sent by the Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice to the President of the States of Guernsey Policy & Resources Committee."*

*2. Renumber Proposition 7 as Proposition 8.*

Thank you.

**The President:** I think, Mr Snowdon, you are going to second this amendment.

80

**Mr Snowdon:** I am, sir, thank you.

85 **The President:** Before inviting Members to express their views on this amendment I wonder, Mr Gentle, if it would be helpful if you read the letter at this stage from the Lord Chancellor, so that everyone knows exactly what the relevance is before we proceed to the debate if this amendment is passed?

**Mr Gentle:** Yes, sir, happy to.

Sir, colleagues:

This letter is sent in connection with the Bailiwick of Guernsey's proposed participation in the negotiated agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union (the "Agreement"). Successive Governments have made clear on a number of occasions since the UK's 2016 Brexit referendum, that the UK's decision to leave the EU, and to enter a new trading relationship with the EU, does not alter or affect the constitutional relationships, through the Crown, between the UK and each of the Crown Dependencies. Neither does it affect Guernsey's participation in the Common Travel Area with the UK, Republic of Ireland and the other Crown Dependencies.

I am pleased to reaffirm the UK Government's commitment to the much valued and long-standing constitutional relationship between the UK and Guernsey. I look forward to continuing to strengthen that relationship, in line with the Justice Select Committee Reports and Government responses of 2010-14; and the Framework for Developing the International Identity of Guernsey, signed in 2008. The UK Government will continue to work closely with Guernsey, in positive collaboration and in the context of our existing constitutional relationship, as we implement the Agreement and develop new trading relationships with other countries. The UK Government continues to support Guernsey and the other Crown Dependencies seeking Letters of Entrustment in additional policy areas, where appropriate, recognising as it does the value to the Crown Dependencies of representing their own interests on the international stage.

As a Crown Dependency, Guernsey is self-governing in respect of its domestic affairs, including in relation to its territorial sea. The UK is responsible for the defence and international relations of the Crown Dependencies. The UK recognises and respects Guernsey's excellent track record of meeting its international obligations through its own domestic policies and legislation. The UK understands that you now have your own decision-making processes to go through to indicate your consent to inclusion in the Agreement. I note the article in the Agreement that would

allow for termination of the arrangements applicable to Guernsey within 90 days of the Agreement's entry into force, were you to request this. Subject to your inclusion, while the UK will retain ultimate responsibility in international law for compliance with obligations created by the Agreement, it is for the Governments of the Bailiwick of Guernsey to determine, in consultation with the UK Government as may be appropriate, how the Agreement should be implemented and administratively enforced in the Bailiwick, and for the Bailiwick's competent authorities to undertake such implementation as necessary. In particular, the UK Government recognises that it will be for the Bailiwick of Guernsey to license and manage fishing by EU vessels in its territorial seas under the Agreement.

Subject to the approval of its legislatures, the Governments of the Bailiwick have confirmed that they are committed to adopting such domestic policies, laws or practices as they consider necessary or expedient for the purpose of implementing the Agreement. In the unlikely event that there is any dispute with the EU, as to any of the islands in the Bailiwick's compliance with the Agreement, the UK Government will work closely with the Governments of the Bailiwick to ensure that their interests are fully represented and that the Governments are fully engaged in the conduct of any dispute resolution process.

In recognition of Guernsey's fiscal autonomy, and in line with constitutional arrangements, I am happy to record that Guernsey was fully consulted upon, and consented to, the declaration in respect of the Bailiwick of Guernsey and the Bailiwick of Jersey on cooperation with the European Union on the recovery of claims related to VAT, customs duties and excise duties. I anticipate and am supportive of the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey requesting entrustments to negotiate the arrangements referred to in the declaration directly with the EU in due course.

Some provisions of the Agreement can be used to create new or modify existing obligations. Where any proposal is made to create or amend any obligation which could apply to Guernsey, the UK Government will engage fully with Guernsey prior to entering any negotiations concerning those obligations. I can confirm that the UK Government will involve Guernsey, as appropriate, in discussions about the formulation of the UK's policy position on such relevant matters. The UK Government recognises that the interests of Guernsey and the UK may be different in this context and will only extend any new or amended obligations arising under the Agreement to Guernsey in accordance with the established constitutional arrangements between the UK and Guernsey for consultation and consent.

I am copying this letter to the Paymaster General, Chief Pleas and the States of Alderney.

90 And it is signed by the Rt Hon. Robert Buckland, QC, MP, the Lord Chancellor.  
Thank you, sir.

**The President:** Thank you, Mr Gentle.

95 Just one slight matter. The amendment reads 'the Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice'. In fact, it should read 'Secretary of State'. (**Mr Gentle:** Yes.) So we can amend the amendment, I suspect.

Mr Snowdon, you wish to second this.

**Mr Snowdon:** I do, and I reserve my right to speak.

100 Thank you, sir.

**The President:** Does any Member wish to speak? Please indicate on this matter, and this is on the amendment.

Back to you, Mr Snowdon.

105 **Mr Snowdon:** Thank you, sir.

I do not think there is anything else to add, but thank you to Mr Gentle for reading it out.

110 **The President:** So that being the case and I think just for the sake of completeness, Madam, if we could take a vote on this as well.

**The Greffier:** Yes, sir.

A vote was taken and the results were as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
Mr Abel	None	None
Ms Burgess		
Mr Gentle		
Mr Harris		
Mr Jean		
Mr McKinley		
Mr Roberts		
Mr Snowdon		

115 **The Greffier:** Sir, that is it, the Proposition has now been amended to include that extra paragraph; and unless you really require me to, sir, I do not propose to read out that Proposition again.

120 **The President:** No, I think that is unnecessary because it does not actually affect the text of what we have already got. It is simply an addition and I think, having read it out once, everybody will appreciate that will be added to the Resolution and the numbers amended accordingly.

**The Greffier:** Thank you, sir.

125 **The President:** So now, Mr Gentle, we move to the motion as amended and, as the proposer, I would invite you now please to move that motion.

**Mr Gentle:** Thank you, sir.

Mr President, colleagues, I never imagined that I would at some point be stood here proposing this Item, but I thank you for allowing this today.

130 I also wish to put it on record that I thank all staff involved in this momentous point in our history and state that a huge debt of gratitude is owed to all Bailiwick civil servants who worked tirelessly to produce the policy letter; and the policy letter has a couple of typos in it.

1.4 The UK and EU negotiations have now concluded and it is no longer possible to make any changes to the arrangement that is on offer. This means the States of Deliberation is being asked to make an important decision, one that marks a milestone in our history. While this is an important decision, it is also a binary decision. The Committee recommends that Guernsey, and the wider Bailiwick accept the terms of the TCA and asks the UK Parliament to ratify it our behalf without consent.

1.5 Having worked closely on the negotiations, in particular over the intensive period in the last few weeks, the Committee is firmly that the agreement on offer by the EU is the best the Bailiwick could have hoped for.

Sir, I would just like to record that on *Hansard*.

135 We did not have a say in the UK's decision to leave the EU; and the EU went into these negotiations with a clear target, which was that the negotiated outcome would leave us in a situation less favourable than we have enjoyed under the old Protocol 3 arrangements. However, the basic terms are better than expected and we have gained things that were not possible under Protocol 3, as I will explain in a bit.

140 The last 11 months have been a battle. We have battled mainly to ensure that the UK in its negotiations with the EU represented our interests fairly and with vigour. We have also battled to ensure that Guernsey understood and fought for our acquisition, and in this latter matter I would like to thank Guernsey because they battled hard. They battled for themselves, but more importantly they battled for the whole Bailiwick. Our interest in goods are clearly in line with Guernsey's and in these matters it unquestionably behoves us to support and agree a common Bailiwick position, that there are no tariffs on imports, and no tariffs on exports where there is a  
145 free trade arrangement.



As far as Alderney is concerned the negotiations which concerned us most were to do with fishing. It was here where we saw our interest to some extent differing from Guernsey. In a nutshell, sir, the resources in our territorial waters are perhaps Alderney's greatest asset. We therefore have a clear and very specific interest – an interest that may only be slightly different  
150 from Guernsey's own position – and the difference really relates to the magnitude of the impact on our two Islands. The EU was consequently, and not unexpectedly, specifically seeking to grandfather the London Fisheries Convention for all boats; and, as a guarantee that we would not renege on what they wanted, they also wanted a one-sided clause that allowed them to turn off the Bailiwick goods relationship at 60 days' notice if at any stage there was a reduction in access.  
155 This was of course unacceptable.

In summary, during the negotiations we sought the right to license and manage our waters, basically the right to assert our own sovereignty; and, in my view, we were actually no different to the UK. We are, however, reasonable people and we were prepared to recognise historic traditions basically with the safeguard that there should be no accompanying increases in effort.  
160 What we wanted was a diminished access principle whereby the number of fishing boats allowed in our waters would drop away. But this was resisted, and we have got a static access model where a track record of 10 days within 12 months, over a three-year period, will give access to approximately 40 French vessels through the Bailiwick. Without this we foresaw that it would be difficult for us to push back if the EU later started asking for increased rights.

In return for our granting of this access to *our* waters we naturally felt it only right that we should have access to French ports to market our catch. This is a European Union maritime subsidy, a deal with 0% tariffs on all goods, not just fish. It would of course be unfair if the fish we sold into Europe had a price disadvantage. Access to the EU's own exclusive economic zone, put simply: if you get access to our waters, we want access to yours; and low, 'illegal, unreported or unregulated' (IUU) notification times of three to five hours. After all, IUU fishing undermines  
165 efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks. This is important because if we do not sign up, then the time will change to three days.

We have an exit clause with a three-year notice period, but we will lose the goods clause if we exercise our notice, which means the end of zero tariffs. Goods and fish go hand in hand. *This*,  
175 colleagues, is a binary choice. It is yes or no, there is no negotiation.

In my own personal view we are slightly worse off than before, but the *status quo* is not an option. We are choosing the best of two options in the circumstances of the UK's decision. However, as I mentioned earlier, we have gained things that were previously not possible.

Bailiwick boats will be considered UK boats for the purpose of access to the exclusive economic zone of France. Management and technical controls can now be applied to French boats, and this was something that could not be done before. The Bailiwick now has the ability to license French vessels, and we never had that before. The ability to land into French ports is a matter for France. Ports designation is not in the treaty. France are designated Cherbourg, Carteret and Granville. At present, Diélette is not a customs port and cannot be designated at present. More conversations  
180 are planned in the next couple of months in order to sort the problem out for all those in the Bailiwick who visit Diélette regularly, particularly through the summer months.

So, to summarise, there is no additional licensing burden. The rights of our fishermen have been preserved and protected. There is no new paperwork; there is no additional cost; and they still have access to the EU markets.

This is necessary to agree today to enable the UK to ratify before 23.00 hours next Thursday. This agreement meets the Bailiwick economic needs and provides for a stable social and economic relationship with France. I think we can genuinely now see Guernsey and Alderney having a common position. Guernsey is prepared to deal. They have voted 37 to nil in favour this morning. We are far too small to do things differently to Guernsey. To be different would simply be crazy.  
190

So I urge you also to vote to accept the deal.  
195 Thank you.

**The President:** Thank you, Mr Gentle.  
Mr Snowdon, you want to second this Proposition.

200 **Mr Snowdon:** I do, sir, and I reserve my right to speak.  
Thank you.

**The President:** Would anybody like to indicate if they want to make a contribution to this debate?

205 Mr Jean.

**Mr Jean:** Thank you, sir.

210 Today, the States of Alderney comes together under these exceptional circumstances to discuss what to so many people must be a huge relief: a deal over Brexit. With regard to Brexit, I have always been an eternal optimist. I took the view some time back that eventually a deal would be done. It had to be, there is just too much trade between people for that not to have happened. The EU and the UK, there was too much at stake not to come to the right conclusion.

215 I have spoken of my memory of 50 years ago, when I would have been 12 or 13 years old, watching the national news on one of those two occasions when General de Gaulle, President of France said '*Non pour l'Anglais*'. In those days the title was Common Market, later becoming the European Union – controversy at the beginning.

I am pleased a deal has been done and I will support all of these measures, as amended. I know much work will take place as the detail continues to be added to the framework, and this will be for the 2021 States to discuss. I would wish them well as the work continues.

220 I am aware that these Islands in the Bailiwick will not benefit from the proposed reduction over the next few years of fishing in UK waters. I am concerned that pressure must not be allowed to grow within our own fisheries limits, especially as our own waters are not easy to police and our own fishing fleet is much smaller, and subjected to enough financial pressure by its own Government without having any added external pressure to contend with. Having said that, I am supportive of the new measures overall.

225 I am concerned that we have had to move with such speed, but as I end my remarks I would like to thank all those Committees in Guernsey and Alderney who have put in many months and hours working towards the ultimate aims, which are for reasonable arrangements for the withdrawal from the EU. I would also like to thank those individual politicians involved on our behalf, and the team of civil servants with Joe Reeve for their endless patient explanations which, sadly, I did not understand all of.

230 There can be no doubt that the States and the Bailiwick of Guernsey, Alderney and Sark are playing their part in what is a momentous and historic event. If I can leave, saying for all of us in our Islands, to the UK and the EU as we leave the EU, even as associate members, that we are as I say, in the spirit of *entente cordiale*. I hope to see the bonds of a strong, friendly trading relationship between the EU, the Channel Islands and the UK growing and taking the place of the formal arrangements which are now disappearing.

235 Fifty years have passed, and I did not think I would return again to my position in the States of Alderney on a Sunday only two days after Christmas to add my support, having seen the whole of the history of our involvement with the EU to these proposals.

240 Sir, thank you very much.

**The President:** Thank you very much indeed, Mr Jean.  
Who would like to follow Mr Jean? Mr Roberts.

245 **Mr Roberts:** I have not got much to say, sir.

Just, well done for all the hard work on this complicated matter both here and in Guernsey. Christmas time is a time for the family but on the most important matters such as this, sacrifice

250 had to be made. We move forward in tandem with our partners in Guernsey, and I support this going forward.

**The President:** Thank you, Mr Roberts.  
Mr Abel.

255 **Mr Abel:** Thank you, Mr President, colleagues.

Today certainly is a significant day for Alderney and for the Bailiwick. I would like to add my thanks to our team and to the Guernsey P&R, and the Civil Service team in Guernsey for all the hard work they have done over the last four and a half years, I think, with more particularly over the last few weeks and the last few days.

260 The Trade and Cooperation Agreement that the UK and the EU reached on Christmas Eve, is considered by most Members of the Guernsey States to be a far better deal for the Bailiwick than was expected, especially when we were considering a no-deal Brexit a couple of weeks ago. The general terms of the TCA recognises the autonomy of the Bailiwick, especially in terms of control of fishing, as has been highlighted, but also its continued rights to land catches in local French ports; and also the right to set its own limits in terms of immigration, which I think is also important for the Bailiwick.

265 In addition, it may open up opportunities for the Bailiwick in terms of extension of the UK's WTO membership and for current and future global trade agreements. The Bailiwick and to a lesser extent Alderney may also benefit from a level financial services playing field, as the UK now becomes a third-country service provider like ourselves.

270 I think, from my perspective, I would support the deal and I think we have a good deal.  
Thank you, Mr President.

**The President:** Thank you, Mr Abel.  
275 Yes, Ms Burgess.

**Ms Burgess:** Thank you, Mr President and fellow States' Members.

I have not really got much more to add. I think Kevin, Mr Gentle, was very thorough in his points made.

280 Personally, I am a bit sad that we are here. I think for future generations having to make this decision is quite a sad day, but relieved that we are here. Also obviously I would like to thank the teams in Guernsey, especially the External Relations team and Policy & Resources, who really did bat hard and well for us. It is noted. Obviously we have seen this morning that it has unanimously passed, and I am hoping that we obviously will be in agreement.

285 Thank you.

**The President:** Mr Harris.

290 **Mr Harris:** Thank you, sir, fellow colleagues. Just a very brief word to follow up from what Mr Abel had to say.

I think, ultimately, this is as good an outcome as we can expect, really; and it all does boil down to a binary choice of yes or no. So I would hope that we will all be supporting this accordingly.

Thank you.

295 **The President:** Thank you.  
Mr Snowdon or Mr McKinley?

**Mr McKinley:** Mr President, fellow States' Members, I have very little to add to all that has been said by my fellow States' Members.

300 Thank you very much to all those who have put so much hard work into it.

Thank you very much, Mr Gentle and Mr Snowdon for proposing and seconding this Item.

Thank you, Mr President, for the work you have done, and not just in the last few days, but the last few weeks. And thank you all as we are moving into a unique phase of history for Alderney and I am proud to be a States' Member at this time ...

305 Thank you very much, sir.

**The President:** Thank you.

Finally, Mr Snowdon.

310 **Mr Snowdon:** Thank you, sir. Thank you, President.

I think this will probably be passed, in a minute, we will see, fingers crossed. (*Interjection*)

It is just regarding the States of Alderney's involvement as this moves forward. I think it is really important that we have got the Normandy Council, where I think Mr Dent is doing quite a lot of work on our behalf and I think you are involved as well. I think actually the Normandy Council is going to be really important for us, because basically we have got all this stuff and you have got to reset what has happened; and we need to keep our relationship strong with the EU, but importantly with France because we are so close.

So what I would just say to Members and new Members is that I think the Normandy Council is going to be quite an important part of our relationships with France as we go forward, and with the opportunities with renewable energies or other energy sources, that we need to keep those relationships strong. So I would quite like to see, when that new P&F is formulated, that we can have some sort of strategy about how we actually do connect with France and maybe further afield with the European Union. I think that has got to be a plan of action.

320 So this is really a reset I think regarding Alderney's involvement. Although we are small, we should actually be pushing ourselves forward with how we are going to have those relationships and see, if Guernsey can have a Bailiwick relationship, what the new format is. I support this today, but I just think we have got to think about how we are heading with all this.

I would just like to say thank you to all the States' Members that have been working on this; and Mr Dent who – I do not know if he is listening to this, and I am not quite sure if we are on Quay FM, I do not think we are on Quay FM – but if he was, he would be listening. Thank you to Mr Dent for all of the work; and also to all the Deputies that have been involved and particularly the civil servants who have been working extremely hard in Alderney and in Guernsey. There has been a tremendous amount of work that has been going on behind the scenes that I do not think people quite understand. So, thank you to everyone; and that is all I have got to say.

335 Thank you, sir.

**The President:** Thank you. Anything to add, Mr Gentle?

340 **Mr Gentle:** Sir, colleagues, this is part of a process not of our making, but has many things to commend it. Mr Jean said he is the eternal optimist, and having listened to you, sir, I think I must be as well. Well said.

Any future Brexit-related matters, or matters that come out of this may well come to Policy and Finance, but that is how we are on the way to achieve a resolution prior to coming here to the full States.

345 Mr Snowdon, I think you said about the Normandy Council, the French have the BIAN, *Bureau des Iles Anglo-Normandes*, or the Bureau of the Channel Islands, and I think there are a couple of civil servants from Guernsey and Jersey who are there to help.

But, just in summary, sir, vote for this.

350 **The President:** Thank you very much.

Because of the historic nature, Madam, I think we will take a vote on this, please.

**The Greffier:** Yes, sir. This is a vote on the Propositions, as amended.

*A vote was taken and the results were as follows:*

<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAINED</b>
Mr Abel	None	None
Ms Burgess		
Mr Gentle		
Mr Harris		
Mr Jean		
Mr McKinley		
Mr Roberts		
Mr Snowdon		

**The Greffier:** That has passed, sir.

355 **The President:** Thank you.

Just one final matter before I invite you to close the meeting. I should have made it clear that I have exercised my discretion as provided in Rule 7 which deals with an amended proposition. Again there I have the discretion to lessen the notice period or deal with it without notice, and I have exercised my discretion in that way.

#### **Thanks to States' Members and Civil Service**

360 **The President:** So that ends the formal part of the proceedings. I started by thanking everybody, and I know everybody here has joined in that; but I think, for our Civil Service this has been a real challenge because they have to keep the Island running as well. We do not have an External Relations Department which is staffed in the same way as Guernsey, and in our involvement over the last year or so I think we have all been incredibly impressed by the level of  
365 professionalism on show by the External Relations Department in Guernsey.

As Mr Jean says, they have kept us up to date and informed, and I share his view that quite often it was all a bit beyond me. I was satisfied and comforted by the fact that the Director, Joe Reeve and his team were acting on behalf of the *whole* Bailiwick; but as far as our Civil Service were concerned they had to filter in to that process all those issues which involved us, which may  
370 not necessarily have been viewed the same way.

So they have worked tirelessly, and again it is just another example of when we need to come together, we do. So I think everybody should feel very happy that we have punched above our weight; we have made our case and we have come out of this I think with an agreement which everybody supports. I think that is probably all I should say.

375 So, that being the case, Madam, would you close the meeting?

**The Greffier:** Yes, sir.

#### **PRAYERS**

*The Greffier*

*The States adjourned at 3.40 p.m.*