

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 31st MARCH 2009**

Question

Would the Minister advise whether members of the Red Ensign Group have been meeting with United Kingdom Authorities in recent times and, if so, would he outline the nature of the talks and where the Island stands on any negotiations?

Answer

Yes – members of the Red Ensign Group have met on a number of occasions in recent times, as follows:

1. Wednesday 1st October 2008 – meeting concerning legislation applicable to serious crimes committed in British ships. This took place in Southampton and was attended by UK officials as well as representatives from a number of the Red Ensign Group -

Bermuda, BVI, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Isle of Man , Guernsey and Jersey.
2. Thursday 2nd October 2008 - meeting of the Red Ensign Group Technical Forum. This also took place in Southampton and was attended by UK officials as well as the same representatives from the Red Ensign Group. The Forum firstly dealt with the terms of reference of the group before addressing technical matters such as lifting gear in ships, passenger ship stability, radar performance standards and procedures for notification of alternative design arrangements.
3. Thursday 30th January 2009 – meeting of the British Certification Committee concerning small commercial vessels. The focus of the meeting was between certifying authorities, district councils, the UK ship registry and its Maritime and Coastguard Agency. As a member of the Red Ensign Group Jersey was invited and its surveyors, MECAL (Jersey) Ltd, attended on its behalf. Matters covered included progress towards a harmonised safety code for small craft and a voluntary code of conduct for operators of rigid inflatable craft.
4. Regarding negotiations, Jersey is an equal member of the group of 12 jurisdictions and all try to secure the best standards for British shipping worldwide. The word ‘negotiations’ is not perhaps quite appropriate.