

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER FOR
BY DEPUTY R.G. LE HÉRISSEIER OF ST. SAVIOUR
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2012**

Question

Is the Chief Minister willing to re-open negotiations to promote the case of Islanders who have a stamp in their passport which denies them the automatic right to work in the European Union and, if not, why not?

Answer

Whilst sympathetic to the case of Islanders who are not entitled automatically to work in the European Union, seeking to re-open negotiations with the EU on the terms of our relationship is not considered to be in the Island's best interests overall. It is worth remembering that the present position was an outcome of complex negotiations that were concluded in 1973 as part of the UK's accession to the European Economic Community. Any change in the present position would require a Treaty change and, even assuming that the EU would be prepared to consider a Treaty change which is most doubtful at this time, it is inevitable that this would lead to a call by the Member States for a general review of the existing relationship, which may not serve Jersey's best interests.