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BUSINESS COMMENTARY *Alistair Osborne*

Easy now, Stelios

People often ask: what has happened to the portly, humourless bully Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou? He hasn't had a meltdown for ages. Well, how's this for an answer: the easyJet founder's been too busy throwing his weight around, taking legal action against the Leicester indie band Easy Life.

Stelios claims, ridiculously, that the group, around since 2017, should either pay royalties to his rag-bag easyGroup, as the catalogue retailer EasyLife does, or be forced to change its name. And it did jokily mock up an easyJet plane on a poster for its Life's a Beach tour. But Stelios didn't invent the word "easy" or "life". Neither did Queen have to pay Her Maj royalties, or The Police cough up for PC Plod. Stelios has now labelled Murray Matravers, the Easy Life frontman, a "brand thief", which sounds defamatory. But, as he puts it: "They're forcing us to change our name or take up a costly legal battle which we could never afford."

Such billionaire bullying should not be allowed to fly.

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