

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 94/2006
9 August 2006

The Opposition welcome that Fly Gibraltar intends to establish flights between Gibraltar and a number of destinations in the United Kingdom and Ireland as from next year.

This shows that it is possible to have expanded use of the airport without having a joint use agreement with Spain which gives them a role in the airport.

The backers of Fly Gibraltar have indicated that their venture is not dependent on an airport agreement and is based on conditions at the airport remaining as they are at present.

The Opposition considers that this news is all the more welcome coming as it does on the back of GB Airways announcing the discontinuation of flights to London Heathrow as from October, and Monarch Airlines ending the link to Manchester last month.

Commenting on the matter, Shadow Minister for tourism with responsibility for civil aviation Dr Joseph Garcia said:

“It is not uncommon for the Government to take the credit when new air links are established with the Minister appearing in press conferences. However, when the air links are removed, as happened with Heathrow, the Minister was nowhere to be seen.

The Opposition believe that the Fly Gibraltar venture is a good idea and particularly welcomes the fact that the airline would be based in Gibraltar.”

Dr Garcia added:

“While the arrival of new airlines is always a welcome development, we must not forget those other airlines which are already established and make sure that their position in Gibraltar is encouraged, supported and protected.

What we now need as a matter of urgency is to have our own authority in Gibraltar to license airlines so that we can license Gibraltar-based airlines to fly from our airport to other destinations.”

ENDS