

**STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 103/2006**  
**5 September 2006**

The Opposition welcome the recommendation that the Gibraltar Football Association be admitted as a provisional member of UEFA, following successful legal action in the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

This is a positive step forward.

It is worth recalling that the need for this legal action came about as a result of the political interference of the Spanish Government whose policy objective continues to be to block applications by Gibraltar sporting associations to their respective international federations.

There is an edict from Spain's Consejo Superior de Deportes which has been issued to all sporting federations in Spain instructing them to block any membership application from a Gibraltar organisation. That edict remains in place.

The policy of the Opposition is to encourage local sporting organisations to join their respective international bodies. This is important both for reasons to do with the development of the sport itself and also to put Gibraltar on the map.

Commenting on the matter, Acting Opposition spokesman for Sport Steven Linares said:

“The Opposition understand that the Congress of UEFA will be discussing the Gibraltar application next January. The only country that has an interest in the rejection of the Gibraltar application is Spain. We totally condemn the policy of the Spanish Government on this matter.

“The Opposition would like to congratulate the GFA on what they have achieved so far and look forward to the day when the Gibraltar national football team will play against teams from other countries as they already do in other sports,” added Mr Linares. “The Spanish Government should stop mixing politics with sport. Indeed, it is not clear what any of this has to do with the Treaty of Utrecht as football did not even exist in 1704!” he added.

**ENDS**

