

The Opposition welcome the news that the Gibraltar Amateur Rowing Association has been admitted as a full member of the European Federation.

The Opposition would like to congratulate GARA for their achievement. It is well known that Gibraltar rowers tend to do very well when they travel to the United Kingdom for competitions and belonging to the European Federation will open new avenues for further success.

It is regrettable that on the eve of this announcement, the Spanish Foreign Ministry said that they will do whatever is necessary so that UEFA does not allow the Gibraltar Football Association to join as a member.

It is totally inconsistent for Spain to threaten further action against Gibraltar in one sport when they have just had to concede our membership in another.

While it is not clear what Spain will do, it will be recalled that in the past the Spanish Football Federation has threatened to withdraw its clubs from European competitions if Gibraltar is admitted.

The Opposition call on the Spanish Government to stop politicising the issue and to accept that Gibraltar sportsmen and women have the same right as everyone else to represent their country in international events.

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