

**STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 115/2006**  
**2 October 2006**

The Opposition notes with concern the manipulation of information and the propaganda exercise currently under way in support of the agreements reached in Cordoba last month.

This follows the news that a spokesman for the European Commission is pleased with the agreement on the basis that it will allow the full application of all EU provisions relating to airports to Gibraltar.

The Opposition will not be surprised if this is followed by a welcome from the United Nations later on this week after the debate on Gibraltar has come to an end. It should be noted that the wording of such a welcome would be agreed between the United Kingdom and Spain beforehand, and that there is no discussion and no vote on the text.

The Opposition considers that it is not surprising that the European Commission should be pleased with the lifting of the restrictions on Gibraltar airport. The Commission themselves were a party to the exclusion of Gibraltar in 1987, have been ever since, and have done nothing to prevent it.

Indeed, instead of standing up against such blatant discrimination against EU citizens in EU territory, as it is bound to do, the Commission has traditionally washed its hands off Gibraltar and allowed the United Kingdom to suspend our airport from European civil aviation law under pressure from Spain. The airport suspension is only one of a number of EU issues where the Commission has taken the view that Gibraltar is a bilateral matter between the United Kingdom and Spain.

Commenting on the matter, Acting Opposition Leader Dr Joseph Garcia said:

“It is important to note that it is this inactivity on the part of the Commission that has given Madrid a weapon in Europe to use against Gibraltar in the first place.

Therefore, as far as the Opposition is concerned, that the European Commission should be pleased with the agreement on the airport is

not an issue. It is one less headache for them. The issue is the price that Gibraltar will be asked to pay in 2008 in exchange for the 'normality' to which we were entitled in the first place."

ENDS