

**STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 160/2006**  
**14 December 2006**

The Opposition cannot understand how the Government can say that the Iberia website is now “politically acceptable” to them because it shows Campo de Gibraltar as the point of origin of the flights to Madrid which start this week.

The Opposition, for its part, considers there is no need or justification for Iberia to show as a Spanish destination or point of departure a non-existent Spanish airport called “Gibraltar, Campo de”.

The fact that this is shown as a Spanish airport would imply that there are two airports side by side, a British regional airport at Gibraltar and a Spanish airport at the Campo de Gibraltar. Of course, we all know that the Campo de Gibraltar is the territory of Spain on the Spanish side of the international frontier, and not the land between Casemates and the international frontier which Spain claims is the disputed territory of the isthmus.

Since we are sure that the isthmus is not disputed territory, we see no reason why someone wishing to buy a ticket from Spain should be misled into believing that they are flying to a non-existent Spanish airport.

Spain’s position on the airport, historically, has always been that flights from Spain would have to be treated as internal, from one part of Spain to another, because they do not recognise that Gibraltar airport is on British soil.

In these circumstances one can hardly blame the public in Spain for thinking that the airport is being shared with them. In fact, what is supposed to be happening under the present arrangements is merely that they have been granted direct access to the airside of our airport, thus providing dual access from Gibraltar and from La Linea for flights to Spain.

The treatment of the airport by Iberia makes no sense and is not necessary.

The point is that neither Gibraltar nor the Campo de Gibraltar should be shown in the list of Spanish cities that is served by Iberia.

The Campo de Gibraltar should not be shown at all anywhere because it does not have an airport. Gibraltar should not be shown because it is not Spanish.

What should happen is that any reference to Gibraltar or the Campo de Gibraltar should be deleted from the list of Spanish cities, and that Gibraltar only should be shown in the list of European cities that is served by Iberia.

Therefore it does not make any sense that the Government should thank Iberia for their “sensitivity and co-operation” in correcting its website. There is nothing to be grateful for until the reference to the Campo de Gibraltar has been deleted from the list of Spanish cities served by Iberia.

**ENDS**

