

## **STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 51/2007**

21 May 2007

The Opposition considers that it is totally unacceptable that a British Airways advert in the "Sunday Times" should give the mistaken impression that Gibraltar is in Spain. The advertisement was spotted last week and it has appeared again in the latest issue of the newspaper which was published this Sunday.

The advert shows an aircraft heading to "Spain" and another to "England". In between these two aircraft are the words "Now closer than ever". It then lists a number of destinations in order of ascending prices.

The list under London Gatwick starts with Malaga airport, then Alicante, and then Gibraltar. It then continues with six more destinations all of which are in Spain. In fact, of the nine destinations included under London Gatwick, Gibraltar is the only one that is not part of Spain.

There is nothing in the advert to explain this important difference between Gibraltar and all the rest.

The Opposition considers that British Airways, and its partner GB Airways who operate the local flights, should know better than to include Gibraltar airport in a list of Spanish airports under the word "Spain".

This is a very sensitive issue given that Spain continues to argue that the land on which the airport is situated is Spanish land, and that its claim to this territory constitutes a separate claim to that over the rest of Gibraltar. The Opposition, for the record, totally rejects the Spanish claim and considers that everything from the lighthouse to the frontier fence is British.

It is also worth noting that the prices in the advertisement are all in euros and that while the Malaga flight is shown as starting at only 9 euros, the Gibraltar flight is over 111% more expensive at 19 euros.

The Opposition believes that the advert, apart from being factually wrong in the impression that it gives, is also in very bad taste and every effort should be made by the Government to have it corrected or removed.

**ENDS**