

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 55/2007

24 May 2007

The Opposition has held a very useful meeting with members of the European Scrutiny Committee of the House of Commons this afternoon. A 23 page dossier with enclosures was handed to the Members of Parliament who attended the meeting.

The Opposition was represented by Acting Leader Dr Joseph Garcia, Mr Charles Bruzon and Mr Lucio Randall.

The role of the European Scrutiny Committee is defined as to assess the legal and/or political importance of each EU document, to decide which EU documents are debated, to monitor the activities of UK Ministers in the Council and keep legal, procedural and institutional developments in the EU under review.

The Acting Leader of the Opposition Dr Joseph Garcia briefed members of the Committee on two specific issues which relate to the European Union.

The first is the blocking by Spain of the ratification by the EU of a number of international Conventions because they do not agree with the way in which competent authorities in Gibraltar will communicate with those of other parties, including countries outside the EU. The Opposition informed the MPs that this was totally unacceptable.

The measures imposing sanctions on North Korea and the 1996 Hague Convention on the international protection of children were cited as examples in the meeting.

The second issue which was raised with the MPs were the discriminatory aspects of the Cordoba agreement on pensions. The Opposition consider that it is discriminatory that benefits are given to Spanish workers, in terms of retrospection, which are being denied to others. The agreement fails to provide equal treatment for all as required by EU law.

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