

Opposition Press Release 154/2008

FEDRA Break-Up Should be done in Gib says Opposition

The Opposition is concerned at the delays being encountered over the breaking up of the FEDRA which we understand is the result of Spanish sensitivities to the waste products being imported into Spain. The Opposition also understands that no firm contractual arrangement with any company has been entered into, and believes it would therefore be of greater benefit to Gibraltar if the works could be carried out in Gibraltar thereby providing economic activity locally.

According to information that has reached us, a delegation from the “Junta de Andalucia” visited Gibraltar on Saturday to look at the situation from an ecological perspective. This delegation did not even have the courtesy of informing the local authorities of their intended visit or of their presence when in Gibraltar. Following this visit, a report in the Spanish press quotes a Spanish politician as saying that it would be dangerous to move any part of the vessel in this weather and that it should be broken up in Gibraltar. This follows appropriate strategic action taken during the weekend by our Port Authorities which involved the moving of the centre part of the ship from the detached mole to the Cruise Liner Terminal at North Mole due to the inclement weather conditions.

Given all of the above the Opposition believes that the Government should do everything in its power to ensure that the break up of the pieces of the FEDRA is done in Gibraltar with workers already employed in Gibraltar and that the waste should then be exported to countries in Europe that regularly buy scrap in bulk and do not have the inhibitions the Spaniards have of buying scrap from Gibraltar.

Shadow Minister for the Environment, Fabian Picardo, said:

“There is no reason not to try to ensure that the break-up of the FEDRA should be done in Gibraltar.”

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