

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

115/2009

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The continuing barrage of attacks against Gibraltar by the Partido Popular and the hostile tone of those attacks suggest that their policy on Gibraltar is to make life more difficult for everyone if they are ever returned to power.

The continuing outbursts by Cadiz MP Jose Ignacio Landaluce are growing increasingly absurd by the moment. The latest complaint from the Cadiz MP is that mobile telephone signals from Gibraltar are too strong and that they interfere with Spanish networks. He has said that he intends to take to raise the matter in the Spanish Parliament because some mobile phones in Spain are roaming to Gibraltar service providers and the user is making and being billed for international calls without realising it.

It seems that the Cadiz MP has no notion of how roaming works or the fact that this is a situation that occurs on every frontier in Europe where it is possible for the telephone signals to be picked up from different service providers on either side of the frontier. Indeed, as everyone in Gibraltar knows, it can happen with Gibraltar mobile telephones that can pick up Spanish network providers.

This is inevitable because like any other country in Europe, Gibraltar is considered to be an independent nation with its own international dialling code for the provision of telephone service including mobiles. It is obvious that this is the element which the Partido Popular finds objectionable. If Gibraltar was part of the Spanish numbering plan, as they see it, then this would not be happening.

It will be recalled that the Partido Popular were completely mistaken when they argued that Gibraltar was still part of the Spanish numbering plan and had been given 100,000 telephone numbers by Spain. Having pointed out to Mr Landaluce that he did not have a clue about this issue, he now accepts that calls to Gibraltar are international calls between two separate nations but has to find a way of criticising us for this as well because his previous criticisms were shown to be based on ignorance and without foundation.

The Opposition consider that it is obvious that the Partido Popular are scraping the bottom of the barrel in their desperation to find different issues with which to attack Gibraltar.

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