

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

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Shadow Minister for Civil Aviation Dr Joseph Garcia will ask Government to say whether they had been approached by Andalus airlines with a request for a subsidy, direct or indirect, apart from the joint marketing campaign, in respect of its routes to Madrid and Barcelona before the latter was suspended. Dr Garcia has given notice of over 90 questions for the Government to answer on a wide range of issues.

Also on aviation matters, Dr Garcia will ask Government to say whether any tests have been carried out to ascertain whether any works need to be done on either or both ends of the runway to allow for its continued usage for commercial flights. He will also seek confirmation from the Government as to why the operational length of the runway has been shortened by painting a large "X" on the surface so that aircraft do not land beyond that point. Dr Garcia will also question the Government on the landing charges due and paid by each commercial airline that uses Gibraltar airport and will seek to establish whether Andalus is charged for the overnight stay of its aircraft in Gibraltar.

In his capacity as Shadow Minister for Shipping and the Port, Dr Garcia will ask what security, immigration, or customs controls are carried out on vessels and their occupants who come for refuelling at the petrol stations located in the area of Watergardens. He will also want to know what procedures are in place in respect of these controls for vessels who come from Spanish ports to supply bunkers to ships in Gibraltar's territorial waters and inside the Port of Gibraltar.

Also on maritime issues, Dr Garcia will ask Government to state how many larger vessels it intends to purchase to increase the capability of its maritime resources, at what cost and indicate which department these vessels would come under. He will ask Government to say whether the problem created by Spain's non-recognition of documents issued by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration to vessels registered in Gibraltar was solved by changing the wording in these documents. He has also given notice of questions on the ferry link between Gibraltar and Algeciras.

On tourism matters, Dr Garcia will want to find out whether the Government has taken a policy decision to involve the private sector in the running of the Upper Rock. He will also seek confirmation from the Government that the Gibraltar office in Madrid is no longer operational and has therefore been closed down, as well as the reasons for the closure.

The Liberal Leader will also ask whether Government are aware of the basis of the objection of the United Kingdom to the adoption of a new system for the mandatory reporting of vessels passing through the Straits of Gibraltar to Spain and Morocco only. He will also want to know whether Government have received any indication from the gaming industry about the effects of the ruling by the European Court in the case of Bwin against Lisbon's national gaming monopoly.

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