

**STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION
118/2010**

2 September 2010

The Opposition considers that the measures planned by the municipality of La Linea to raise money by charging cars that leave Gibraltar, although motivated by the fact that they are bankrupt, is part of a wider campaign orchestrated by Spanish politicians which reaches many fronts.

The point is that Gibraltar has been fed continuous propaganda of a new climate in relations with Spain when this is a far cry from what has been happening in reality. It will be recalled that the Spanish central Government proposed the designation of Gibraltar's territorial waters as if they were Spanish in EU environmental legislation. This was accepted by the EU and is now the subject of a court case in the European courts because Spain has not yielded to the political and legal reality of our sovereignty over these waters and backed down.

This designation was followed by an increase in the number and seriousness of incursions by the Spanish navy, the Spanish Civil Guard and the Servicio de Vigilancia Aduanera into the territorial waters of Gibraltar. The agencies of the Spanish state then proceeded to exercise jurisdiction in the waters around Gibraltar. In this way they implemented the policy of the central Government in Madrid that Gibraltar has no waters and that all the sea around the Rock belongs to Spain. This culminated in a landing on Gibraltar soil by four armed civil guards in December.

There have also been a number of instances where Spanish military and official aircraft have violated the airspace of Gibraltar as if this belonged to them. On another matter, it will be recalled that Gibraltar was not allowed to take part in the opening ceremony of the European Athletics Championship which took place in Spain recently because of a long-standing political decree issued by the Consejo Superior de Deportes of the Spanish Government which is still in place.

The action taken by the Mayor to impose a toll on vehicles which exit Gibraltar can only be seen against this background of hostility and anti-Gibraltar measures which have already been taken by the Spanish Government in Madrid. This is not an isolated incident and it comes in a context which has not been seen for many years. This has made it easier for the Mayor to float the idea and for the Partido Popular, which indicators suggest could be the next Government of Spain, to express its full backing for La Linea. The scene has now been set for cherry picking galore whenever there is a change of Government in Madrid. The Opposition reiterate that the existing climate in cross-border relations will only be worsened by the plans for a toll and this is not good for anyone.