

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

82/2010

15 June 2010

Shadow Minister with responsibility for the Port and maritime issues Dr Joseph Garcia will probe Government on its policy in relation to angling, diving and commercial fishing with nets in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. Dr Garcia has tabled over 140 questions for the Government to answer on a wide range of issues.

Dr Garcia will ask Government to confirm whether the Port Authority holds a list of the number of people waiting for a berth for their boat and if so can they say how any people are on the list. He will want to know whether the VTS system which was installed at the Port is now fully operational and whether the Government intend to allow bunkering and ship to ship oil/fuel cargo transfers to take place on the east side once the VTS system is fully operational. The Opposition spokesman will also want to know whether it is Government policy that ship to ship transfer of oil/fuel cargo takes precedence over bunkering activities in the Bay. Dr Garcia will also seek confirmation as to whether a request has been received from the Tribunal Superior de Andalucia for a judge from La Linea to examine objects left behind in Gibraltar by Odyssey Marine Exploration and if so what has been the response to this request.

In his capacity as Shadow Civil Aviation Minister, Dr Garcia will again press the Government for details of the sums owed in passenger tax and landing charges by Andalus airlines. He will ask whether the payments were up to date before the airline ceased its flights between Gibraltar and Spain. He will also want to know on what date the Government became aware that a creditor had commenced legal proceedings for the arrest of a leased aircraft operated by Andalus and that an attempt would be made locally to arrest the aircraft. Dr Garcia will also ask how much of the £50,000 marketing budget allocated by the Government to Andalus has been spent and on what.

Joseph Garcia will seek to establish how many commercial units there will be in the new air terminal, how many will be allocated to existing commercial entities in the current air terminal and how many will be put out to tender. He will want Government to confirm how many of these units will be allowed to retail goods on a duty-free basis. He will also ask for details of the empty commercial units in the Casemates development and in Watergate House and will want to know whether the five empty units Chatham Counterguard will be put out to tender.

The Liberal Leader will ask for details of the infraction proceedings and EU court cases which are open against the United Kingdom for the failure to transpose EU directives in Gibraltar. He will ask for a list of all directives which are pending transposition. On other matters, Dr Garcia will want to know whether Gibraltar identity cards (the red card) are issued to British Citizens who are resident in Spain. He will also ask what discussions have been held with La Linea city council with a view to offering shore excursions in La Linea to cruise visitors to Gibraltar.