



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **THE “RED ENSIGN GROUP” CONFERENCE**

The annual Conference of the “Red Ensign Group” (REG) of British Shipping Registers returns to Gibraltar this year. It was first held here in 1999. The Opening Ceremony will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May where the Minister for Transport, the Hon J J Holliday will deliver the opening address. The three day conference is being held at the Caleta Hotel.

The REG comprises the UK Shipping register and the Shipping registers of the Crown Dependencies and the UK Overseas Territories. Representatives from the Ship Registries of the United Kingdom, Isle of Man, Guernsey, Jersey, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Falkland Islands, will join the Gibraltar delegates at the Conference. There will be 44 delegates taking part including 5 from Gibraltar, who are led by the Maritime Administrator.

The aim of the Conference is to provide an opportunity for a rich and open exchange between the delegates from the REG. It seeks to strengthen Maritime relationships between its members and aims to disseminate and promote best practice within the REG. The annual conference provides the forum for discussion of Maritime Policies, technical issues in respect of regulation, marine safety, pollution prevention and the welfare of seafarers for ships on their registers worldwide and for ships under other flags that visit the ports and waters of REG members.

“I am delighted that Gibraltar is hosting the prestigious Red Ensign Conference this year,” said Hon Joe Holliday. “There are many interests and issues that are common to the different jurisdictions within the Red Ensign Group. A forum such as this is therefore helpful in trying to find solutions to these matters by learning from the experience of other members. I also attach particular importance to the fact that Gibraltar can play a full part in the formulation of new policies for the whole Red Ensign Group as one of the five Category 1 registers”.

In addition to full work sessions a social programme has been prepared for the delegates.