



PRESS RELEASE

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Political Change in Spain – Chief Minister’s Statement

Mr Speaker

This afternoon, the Speaker or President of the Spanish lower house of Parliament, the Congreso de los Diputados, has announced that at 3.30pm she was communicating to the King of Spain, that the until now Prime Minister of Spain, Mr Mariano Rajoy, has lost a Motion of Censure and Confidence.

As a result of the same Motion, a majority of the Members of the Congreso have voted that the Leader of the PSOE Socialist Party, Pedro Sanchez Perez-Castejon, should be appointed Prime Minister, leading a minority Socialist government.

Mr Speaker, the importance of that political change in Spain at this time in our history, cannot be underestimated.

As the leader of the Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party and as Chief Minister of Gibraltar and Leader of this House, I have written a few moments ago, before coming back to this House, to Snr Sanchez, to congratulate him on result of that motion seeking his appointment as Prime Minister.

In these circumstances, aside from offering my congratulations, I have also tendered to Mr Sanchez our desire to bring dialogue, understanding and cooperation to the issues that arise between our people

Mr Speaker, the next ten months will be decisive in many ways for Gibraltar, as we move towards the 29th March 2019 and our departure from the European Union with the United Kingdom.

The result of the events in the Spanish Parliament today will mean that the ideology of those with whom we engage in Spain, and the manner in which we engage with them, may change.

As I have already said in writing to the new President of the Spanish Government, we will not be found wanting when it comes to demonstrating the willingness of the People of Gibraltar to engage constructively in dialogue in pursuit of policies designed to deliver co-operation and good neighbourly relations between our people.

I sincerely wish that we will see that sentiment reciprocated so that we can advance matters in the common interest of the citizens we each represent.