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<b>PRESS RELEASE</b>
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No. 288/2012

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012

**Only the Spanish Government has abandoned the Trilateral Forum**

The Government note the comments made by the Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo in relation to the Trilateral Forum in an interview with the Spanish daily ABC on Sunday.

When asked whether he had received a reply from London to his request for a Quadripartite Forum over Gibraltar, the Minister is quoted as having said the following:

“Yes, and it is entirely satisfactory, in the sense that now nobody hopes for the existence of a Trilateral Forum. What we would have instead is a series of “ad hoc” meetings with equality of representation” [posiciones].

The Government of Gibraltar wish to place on record that it remains ready to participate in the Trilateral Forum. The Government understands that the United Kingdom Government, for its part, remains strongly committed to the Forum and has specifically communicated this to Mr Margallo, rendering his remarks in the interview quite astonishing.

Moreover, it will be recalled that the continuation of the Forum is also the policy of the main Spanish Opposition party, the PSOE.

It is, therefore, only the Spanish Government, following the general elections in Spain at the end of last year, that has abandoned the Forum.