



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR SPORTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE & YOUTH
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PRESS RELEASE

No. 540/2012

Date: 28th August 2012

Gibraltarian culture to be promoted in the Czech Republic

The Minister for Culture, Heritage, Sport and Youth, The Hon Steven Linares, will be heading a small delegation to Prague following an invitation from the organisers of the International Folklore Festival Prague Fair, a significant cultural event in the Czech Republic. The Festival enjoys an important international profile with participation from countries across the globe and it showcases different cultures through arts and crafts, gastronomy, dance and music. Over 60 folklore festivals are held in the Czech Republic each year: they act as a significant economic catalyst and provide a forum for a range of countries to promote their cultural identity.

The aim of the Gibraltar delegation's visit is to establish ties between both communities, to showcase Gibraltar as a centre of culture and to further develop Gibraltar's cultural events calendar.

Commenting upon this visit, Minister Linares said that the invitation extended to Gibraltar offered, a very exciting opportunity. "On this occasion we have been invited to send a delegation to explore the possibility of taking a bigger part in future Prague festivals. This will offer us a platform on which to expose Gibraltar's cultural identity to a wider European audience. Events such as these are central to the Government's policy on supporting the development and enrichment of our cultural assets at both local and international levels."

When asked "Why Prague?" The Ministry's Chief Culture Officer, Yvette Zarb, replied that "As a city rich in culture and history, Prague is the perfect shop-front for a place like Gibraltar which is also steeped in a rich historical and cultural past."

She added that "Prague's Folklore Festival is also a perfect venue for our young and not so young performers to present their talent and Gibraltar's traditions. Hopefully this will also open opportunities for us to network with other nations and be part of a wider collective."

Participants at the Festival include Brazil, New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Indonesia, China, Germany, Greece, Italy, Russia, South Korea plus contributors from of the Czech Ministry of Defence and young winners of the European Little Singer Competition 2011. The Festival also includes a traditional fair where local food and drink specialities are on offer and local crafts are demonstrated.

The Gibraltar delegation will include Chief Culture Officer, Ms Yvette Zarb, from the Chief Minister's office, Mr Carl Viagas, and Dr Jennifer Ballantine Perera, Director of Gibraltar Garrison Library.