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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **A BUSY TIME IN LONDON FOR MINISTER COSTA AND THE GIBRALTAR TOURIST BOARD**

The Hon Neil Costa MP, Minister for Tourism, Public Transport and the Port has returned from his visit to London for the World Travel Market (WTM). Over fifteen meetings were held at the Gibraltar Tourist Board (GTB) stand by Minister Costa and the GTB. The meetings have been instrumental in providing potential business opportunities for Gibraltar in various aspects of the tourism, airline and cruise industries. Minister Costa also received media coverage at the event, having been interviewed by the Holiday and Cruise Television Channel and the Travel Weekly publication.

Following the launch of the Gibraltar International Literary Festival, Minister Costa was also invited to a Reception and Dinner at The Divinity School of The University of Oxford on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November.

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Minister Costa participated in the Tourism Minister's summit where he met Hugh Robertson, Minister for Sport & Tourism of the United Kingdom. The main themes discussed at the summit were existing obstacles to the sustained growth of travel and tourism, success stories of visa facilitation and the impact on demand and jobs and current air transport policies and measures necessary to advance towards increased connectivity. On the evening of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>, Minister Costa joined other tourism Ministers from around the world, along with key figures from the tourism industry, at the WTM Ministerial Dinner in association with the World Tourism Organisation and Visit Britain at Mansion House.

Whilst in London Minister Costa also held various meetings at Gibraltar House in London and on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November visited Woking, at the invitation of the Borough Council, to discuss various issues of mutual interest to Gibraltar including Green Energy and sustainability and Business Start-up and incubators

Describing his visit to London for the World Travel Market, the Hon Neil Costa MP, said, "This was my first experience of this very important gathering of the tourism industry. Our analysis of the event, which will now be carried out in greater detail, will determine the level and format of Gibraltar's participation in the future. I have already stated that these events must yield results and potential business leads and if this is

the case, then the investment by all parties will be measurable. I was impressed by the hard work and dedication of the GTB's team at the event and the important role played by the presence of our industry partners."