



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry for Health & Environment
Joshua Hassan House
Secretary's Lane
Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

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Issues raised by Minister Cortes with Verdemar are in GSLP/Liberal manifesto

The meeting which the Minister for the Environment and Departmental officials held with Verdemar was an informal discussion of matters of environmental interest in the region as a whole.

La Razón's reporting is inaccurate as no statements were made that are inconsistent with the Government's manifesto.

The issue of a no-anchoring zone up to one and a half miles off the east side was made public by the Government by way of a press release on 8th October 2012, when it announced the revised Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Plan. The details are contained within the plan, which has been available on the Government website since that date.

There was no mention of any artificial reef areas in the session with Verdemar, nor did the Minister give any guarantees. It would in any case not have been appropriate for such guarantees to be given at a meeting of this nature, and as a Minister of HM Government of Gibraltar, he is well aware of this. It was explained that there were no currently active plans for further reclamation on the east side, that bunkering had not been extended to the east side, and that it was still an intention to continue to explore the possibility for providing land-based bunkering. This is all public knowledge as it is part of the GSLP/Liberal 2011 Manifesto.

Contact with non-governmental organisations outside Gibraltar, in Spain and elsewhere, is vital in showing the world that Gibraltar is taking its place in assuming its international responsibilities. Indeed, environmental credentials are increasingly important on the international stage. Dr Cortes will continue to use his excellent personal contacts with many organisations around the world to benefit Gibraltar as a whole, and so give it credibility as responsible member of the global community. This will benefit Gibraltar socially, economically and politically.

"It is important to show even those who have criticised Gibraltar in the past, that many of these criticisms are unjustified and that we will soon be leading in environmental initiatives in our region. Already many are sitting up and taking notice. They are noticing the change," said Dr Cortes.

The Opposition would do well to read HM Government of Gibraltar's press releases rather than to believe the spin contained in right-wing Spanish newspapers.