



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
PRESS OFFICE
No.6 Convent Place
Gibraltar
Tel:20070071; Fax: 20043057**

PRESS RELEASE

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Gibraltar Government in Brussels to lobby for Gibraltar

The Chief Minister Fabian Picardo and the Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia are in Brussels for a series of meetings with the European Union institutions.

A number of issues relating to Gibraltar and the EU are being discussed with the European Commission and with different Members of the European Parliament.

They are accompanied by the Chief Secretary, Ernest Gomez, the Government's Chief Legal Adviser, Michael Llamas, and UK Representative, Albert Poggio.

In a packed schedule, there will be meetings on matters such as on-line gaming issues and border delays which means that the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister will often have to attend different meetings.

This morning the Chief Minister addressed the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO) of the European Parliament and gave a presentation on online gaming regulation in Gibraltar. This is the first time that a Chief Minister of Gibraltar has addressed such a European Parliament Committee and Mr Picardo opened the discussion explaining Gibraltar's expertise in this field after the Parliament's Rapporteur, Ashley Fox MEP.

In a separate meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister raised the border delays and the EU waters designation issue with UKIP Leader, Nigel Farage MEP. These matters will also be discussed in more detail in a meeting with the European Citizen's Action Service (ECAS). Dr Garcia presented a dossier which contains detailed statistics about the frontier queue on every day of 2012 and 2013 to date. The dossier also contains photographs and press cuttings.

The visit coincides with a feature on Gibraltar in this week's issue of "Parliament Magazine". This includes an article by the Chief Minister entitled "Playing by the Rules" which reviews the position of Gibraltar in the EU. There is also an article by Liberal Democrat MEP Sir Graham Watson entitled "Equal Treatment" which maintains that Gibraltar cannot be unfairly treated in the EU and another article on on-line gaming by Conservative MEP Ashley Fox. German MEP Axel Voss in an article entitled "Border line", argues that freedom of movement is a fundamental right of EU citizens and former MEP Glyn Ford discusses transport issues in an article headed "Harbouring tension".

In the absence of Mr Picardo and Dr Garcia from Gibraltar, Minister for Health and the Environment Dr John Cortes will act as Chief Minister until Friday.