



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Office of the Minister for Tourism, Commercial Affairs,
Public Transport and the Port
Suite 631, Europort
Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

No. 806/2013

Date: 11th November 2013

Costa notes “fruitful participation” at WTM 2013 in London

Gibraltar was represented at last week’s annual World Travel Market (WTM) 2013 in London which brings together political representatives, officials and experts from tourist departments across the world.

Minister for Tourism, Commercial Affairs, Public Transport and the Port Neil Costa MP accompanied by Gibraltar Tourist Board CEO Nicky Guerrero, took part in the global seminar for the travel trade.

Mr Costa attended the ministerial summit held in partnership with the World Tourism Organisation which addressed a diverse range of relevant issues affecting the tourist industry and the aviation sector with the aim of achieving policy initiatives to deliver greater convergence between the two.

The conference, which was opened by Taleb Rifai Secretary-General of World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), also examined new opportunities and challenges facing air transport development, including infrastructure, taxes and levies, visa facilitation and regulation.

Among the speakers were the Tourism Ministers from the US Virgin Islands, Russia, Morocco, Mexico and Portugal and officials from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

On Friday 8th November Minister Costa chaired a meeting of the United Kingdom Gibraltar Tourism Association (UKGTA). The meeting was one of the best attended and although three of the UK members were not able to attend, meetings with these companies were held at the Gibraltar stand at WTM. As a result, the Ministry and the GTB were able to progress discussions with its business partners on a raft of different projects.

At the meeting of the UKGTA, the tourism partners reported a positive increase in business for the year as a result of the Government's investment in marketing and particularly in initiatives with event-led tourism. In addition the tour operators and airlines to Gibraltar all reported solid increases to Gibraltar. This is consistent with

reports throughout 2013 that also reflected significant increases in leisure tourism to Gibraltar.

Minister Costa said: "It has been a very fruitful participation by Gibraltar at the WTM this year. The discussions proved to be interesting and touched upon key issues of how aviation and tourism policies can work together for mutual cooperation and therefore for the benefit of the general public who are after all the customers of these services. It gives me great personal satisfaction to hear reports at the meeting of the UKGTA that there have been solid increases in visitors to the Rock and that the tour operators themselves acknowledged the particular efforts of the Government in bringing the tourism industry to the fore."