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| <b>PRESS RELEASE</b> |
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**‘Concerned citizens’ to protest before EU in Brussels**

Over the last few months, the Government has been approached by a number of concerned citizens who wanted to protest before the European Union about the delays generated by Spain at the land frontier with Gibraltar.

This included people from all walks of life and from all shades of political opinion.

The result of these discussions is that a group of Gibraltarians and residents of Gibraltar will travel to Brussels at the end of the month in order to complain about the continuing illegal and disproportionate queues at the border. The group will meet with the MEPs currently representing Gibraltar and with other MEPs and officials. The logistics have been very kindly arranged by the office of Sir Graham Watson MEP.

The Government is planning initiatives of its own in Brussels and will not be involved in this movement which is led by members of the public. Those participating do so in an individual capacity regardless of their employment, their political sympathies or their group affiliations.

The group plans to hold protests in Brussels at the EU Parliament and elsewhere. Representatives of the group will also give a presentation to MEPs and hand over a petition.

Members of the public are invited to sign this petition, online at <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/spanish-government-undermining-our-right-to-freedom-of-movement.html> or at the Piazza this coming Saturday 18 January where the group will have an information stand from 10am till 2pm.

The petition reads as follows:

To the Chairman of the Petitions Committee of the European Parliament.

We the undersigned are nationals of Member States of the European Union whose right to freedom of movement through an internal border of the EU is being undermined on a daily basis by the actions of the Spanish authorities at the land frontier between Gibraltar and Spain.

This is because Spain generates deliberate and unnecessary delays which cause queues of pedestrians, motorcycles, bicycles and cars to cross the frontier between Gibraltar and Spain. These delays can last for many hours.

We urge your Committee to investigate the matter.