



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

PRESS RELEASE

No. 231/2014

Date: 20th May 2014

Gib participation in Rotterdam conference highlights

Port's international reputation

The Gibraltar Port Authority will be actively participating in the high-profile 5th Annual European Bunker Conference that takes place in Rotterdam, Holland, on May 25th organised by Platts, the leading worldwide provider of energy, petrochemicals, metals and agriculture information.

The GPA attendance is part of an ongoing promotional business drive by Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar to ensure that the Rock retains its internationally recognised position as the most important bunker port in the Mediterranean and one of the most important bunker hubs in the world.

The Gibraltar Port Authority will be represented by Bunkering Superintendent John Ghio, who will be one of the speakers at the event.

The GPA has been extremely busy attending various major global bunkering conferences, among them, the IBIA (International Bunker Industry Association), which was held in London in February 2014, in conjunction with the prestigious industry trade fair 'IP Week'. The GPA also attended the 35th International Bunker conference in Copenhagen in April 2014, IBIA Annual Convention held in Hong Kong in November 2013, Platt Mediterranean Bunker Conference held in Barcelona in December 2013 and ARACON held in Rotterdam in October 2013.

Minister for Tourism, Commercial Affairs, Public Transport and the Port, Neil Costa MP said that the Port had doubled its marketing strategy efforts in order to attract new business and were constantly promoting the range of excellent services with articles and advertising in some of the leading industry publications in UK and Europe, such as Bunkerworld, Bunkerspot and Cruise and Ferry Review.

He said that despite a contraction of the market worldwide in the current economic climate, the Gibraltar Port had continued to apply a proactive approach to the

question of marketing, in order to remain ahead of the game. Mr Costa noted that Gibraltar was a robustly regulated port with excellent professional standards, quality of service and stringent environmental legislation that safeguarded best practice in accordance with International Maritime Organisation provisions.

He further stated that Gibraltar was third only to the port of Rotterdam and Antwerp in terms of bunker throughput in the whole of Europe and that his Government was committed to preserving the Rock's position at the forefront of international ports.

Mr Costa also highlighted the Port's resilience to meet all types of challenges and to continue to emerge from the experience as "a major player in the industry."

The Minister added: "Since being elected into office, we have given renewed impetus to the whole question of the promotion of our Port, which represents a vital part of our economy, a fact this administration recognises and wholeheartedly embraces. We work in very close collaboration, and directly with all stakeholders and through the Port Advisory Council, to further promote the solid reputation of the Port of Gibraltar and ensure the attendance of our professional representatives at some of the most important gatherings of port and maritime industry professionals in the world."