



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

Ministry for Equality & Social Services
14 Governor's Parade
Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

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SUPPORT FOR GIBRALTAR AT COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION AGM

Gibraltar took the opportunity to raise the issue of the continued harassment by Spain at the 44th Conference of the British Isles and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The conference is currently being held in Cardiff.

During the Regional AGM, the Hon Samantha Sacramento, leader of the Gibraltar Parliament delegation, called for the support of those Commonwealth countries who were present. Minister Sacramento outlined the recent developments and in particular she referred to the visit by the delegation of the European Commission last September and the subsequent report and recommendations. She drew attention to Gibraltar's compliance with all recommendations which contrasted with Spain's failure to take any substantive action by the recently expired deadline.

Minister Sacramento recalled that the last time that BIMR conference took place in Cardiff, Gibraltar's then Chief Minister raised the same issue and it was regrettable that we still found ourselves enduring the same problem and raising it at this forum several years later.

Regional Chair, Deputy Mike O'Hara from Guernsey confirmed the Region's total support for Gibraltar and following interventions from Malta and Scotland it was resolved that the executive would write to the Spanish Government to make them aware that this issue had been raised by Gibraltar at CPA level and request an explanation so that a written reply from the Spanish Government can be considered at the next meeting. The executive will also write to the European Commission to ask it to express its position and to ask why the Commission has not taken any further action.

Furthermore, Minister Sacramento has also secured that Gibraltar will host the 47th Regional Conference in Gibraltar which will take place in 2017. Gibraltar last hosted this conference in 2009.

Commenting on the matter, Samantha Sacramento said, "Gibraltar is part of the family of Commonwealth nations and a conference such as this is an important platform for raising our profile and for calling for support. These issues were considered formally as part of

the AGM agenda and more informally through our networking opportunities. Commonwealth colleagues in our region are now very much alive to the issue."

Note to Editors:

The British Isles and Mediterranean Region is composed of the parliaments and legislatures of the following countries: Cyprus, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Malta, Northern Island, Scotland, St Helena, United Kingdom and Wales. Australia, Canada and the Caribbean are present at this conference as observers.