



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Gibraltar attends Protected Areas Seminar hosted by European Commission**

Seventy six scientists from Mediterranean countries, including Gibraltar, recently met in Thessaloniki (Greece) in a seminar organized by the European Union's Environment Directorate General. The aim of the seminar was to exchange know-how, experience and good practice in the management of protected areas as part of the EU's commitment to halt biodiversity loss by 2020. The Department of the Environment's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Liesl Mesilio-Torres and Senior Environment Officer, Stephen Warr attended the 3 day seminar as did representatives from the UK's Joint Nature Conservation Committee. This is the third time that a Gibraltar delegation participates in this initiative otherwise known as the Natura 2000 Process. Attendance has allowed the Government to renew contact with the European Commission whilst fostering new contacts with environmental organisations. The Government is keen to continue participating with the aim of further developing its management efforts in the Southern Waters of Gibraltar and the Rock of Gibraltar EU Protected Areas.