



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

PRESS RELEASE

No. 91/2014

Date: 24th February 2014

'Government's discount scheme set to boost Gibraltar Port competitiveness' – Costa

Minister for Tourism, Commercial Affairs, Public Transport and the Port, Neil Costa MP, has announced changes to the Port Rules, which regulate the amount of discount on passenger dues for cruise ships calling at Gibraltar. Changes to these rules will be officially announced in the Legal Notice to be published on Thursday.

These changes to the Rules follow hard on the heels of the recent announcement by Royal Caribbean International that its megaship, Anthem of the Seas, will call seven times at the Rock in 2015.

The measures will be publicised to coincide with the next series of meetings with cruise company executives in Miami later in the year.

The amendment allows 'repositioning' calls from the Mediterranean to the Caribbean or vice-versa to benefit from a 100% markdown on passenger dues. There will also be further reductions applied, depending on the number of passengers on-board the individual cruise ships, calculated cumulatively in respect of vessels belonging to a particular maritime line.

Minister Costa said he was satisfied with his amendments to the discount scheme, which would incentivise Royal Caribbean International's ships to continue to call beyond 2015 and also attract more calls by other cruise liners to further boost the cruise industry sector.

"Shipping services are a vital component of the economy. I am very pleased with these new changes, as they will add a further competitive edge to the Port of Gibraltar in our energetic policy to support the cruise industry sector and ensure its continued success and growth."

Mr Costa has also given extensive interviews to prestigious publications such as the French financial magazine 'Les Echos' and the 'International Cruise and Ferry Review', with detailed accounts of Gibraltar's position as one of the leading maritime

services hubs for international shipping, including the cruise industry, in Western Europe.