



## PRESS RELEASE

No: 638/2015

Date: 21st September 2015

---

### CM Interviewed in *El Mundo*

The influential conservative Spanish newspaper *El Mundo* features a full page interview with Chief Minister the Hon. Fabian Picardo, QC MP in its Sunday supplement yesterday. Mr Picardo stresses the Opposition party PSOE's position on Gibraltar to the effect it will return to the Tripartite Process of dialogue when it is returned to office.

In contrast, he says the Spanish Government has not fulfilled its obligations under the Cordoba Agreements and that the politics of the last four years has done great harm to relations between both sides of the Border. Mr Picardo avoids giving an opinion of the forthcoming Spanish General Elections saying it is a matter for the people of Spain and that his Government believes in dialogue with its neighbours irrespective of their political ideology. He also states clearly HMGoG's position on economic cooperation and fiscal transparency pointing out that all requests for information must adhere to strictly international rulings otherwise no Government will supply information to the detriment of the democratic rights of its citizens.

The Chief Minister insisted there are thousands of matters on which we are in total agreement and only one in which we differ. He reminds readers of *El Mundo* that former socialist Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran once said if he was handed Gibraltar over against the wishes of the Gibraltarians he would not accept it.

Regarding the frontier queues the Chief Minister accepted the situation had improved but only because the European Union had imposed its criteria on Free Movement between EU States. He said queues still existed on occasions and that he hoped they will not continue as a means of creating political pressure.

Mr Picardo also argued that cooperation against drug trafficking or smuggling between the law enforcement agencies existed on a daily basis although when problems occurred the matter was aired extensively in the media.