



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
**PRESS OFFICE**  
**No.6 Convent Place**  
**Gibraltar**  
**Tel:20051739; Email: [pressoffice@gibraltar.gov.gi](mailto:pressoffice@gibraltar.gov.gi)**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

No: 36/2015

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015

### **HMGOG POSITION ON THE CM ADDRESS TO NUEVA ECONOMIA FORUM**

The Chief Minister, Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP was due to give a talk at the prestigious independent Nueva Economia Forum in Madrid on Tuesday 3rd February.

Arrangements were made for his introduction to be carried out by HMG Ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley.

Yesterday evening, the organisers informed the Chief Minister's Office at No. 6 Convent Place that regrettably the invitation extended to Mr Picardo was being withdrawn "for reasons of State".

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar is deeply saddened that a long standing invitation to the elected representative of the people of Gibraltar should be withdrawn at the apparent instance of prominent members of the Spanish Government. The address by Mr Picardo had already been advertised and invitations had been sent by the Forum to many organisations and individuals. The freedom of expression of all citizens is a paramount right, and in a democratic Europe the political representatives of communities such as Gibraltar cannot be silenced.

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar will continue to ensure that Gibraltar's position is set out and understood on as many occasions as it can so that the democratic rights of the people of Gibraltar are properly represented internationally, including in our neighbouring country.

The Chief Minister, Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, said: "In Gibraltar our long democratic traditions teach us that those who seek to silence us do so because they are bereft of logic with which to reply to our arguments. Trying to prevent me from speaking to the Nueva Economia Forum will likely increase interest in the message of the people of Gibraltar."