



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Government raises CEPSA Flaring Incident with the EU Commission**

H.M. Government of Gibraltar has submitted an official complaint to the EU Commission regarding the recurring episodes of flaring at the San Roque CEPSA refinery, with specific reference to the incident last Sunday 29th January.

The seven page report sets out the history to the complaint, highlighting the fact that this was not an isolated incident but rather an escalation of an ongoing environmental concern. An independent audit carried out in 2008 drew attention to the plant's frequent electrical problems and made explicit recommendations on how CEPSA should address these in order to avoid or minimise power outages.

Despite this, CEPSA continues to deflect responsibility for preventing flaring episodes by unashamedly citing electrical faults as the cause of such incidents.

The audit also highlighted the length of the flaring episodes, noting that other refineries take around 10 minutes to recover, as opposed to the almost hour-long episode witnessed last month. HMGOG has told the Commission that these facts seriously call into question whether CEPSA has adequately implemented the recommendations of the 2008 audit and indeed whether it respects other aspects of compliance with environmental standards arising under EU law.

The complaint also raises HMGOG's concerns that despite Gibraltar's proximity to the refinery, no formal contact was established with our relevant authorities and establishes that it expects to be formally notified of any future incidents.