



PRESS RELEASE

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Gibraltar Finance Representative to Speak at European Parliament on Blockchain and Governance

Paul Astengo to Participate in Panel Discussion Bringing Together Experts Working in all Sectors of Financial Technology

Gibraltar – 27 November 2018 - Gibraltar Finance today announced that Paul Astengo, Senior Finance Centre Executive, will attend the European Parliament on Tuesday, 4th December, as part of a panel discussion organised by Blockchain4Europe. The panel discussion entitled 'Blockchain and Governance', which takes place from 9:00am - 10:30am, will bring together experts working in all sectors of financial technology, from regulation and governance to startup and business leaders.

Speaking ahead of the event, Paul Astengo said, "I am thrilled to represent Gibraltar Finance at this event. It is a fantastic opportunity to discuss the fast-evolving sector of blockchain regulation at the epicentre of European politics and governance. In bringing together a vast array of esteemed industry experts, we can expect an informative discussion. I am excited to share insights on how companies, regulators, and governments are working together to bring blockchain innovation to the mainstream."

Mr Astengo, who has been instrumental in advancing blockchain development in Gibraltar's rapidly-expanding crypto space, will be joined by speakers including Peteris Zilgalvis, the European Commission's Head of Unit, Start-ups, and Blockchain, and, also, Co-Chairman of the Fintech Taskforce; Louis de Bruin, IBM's Blockchain Leader for Europe; Martin Ruubel, President of Guardtime, Estonia's Blockchain Partner; and David Siegel, CEO and Founder of the Pillar Project and 20|30. The panel will be hosted by Cătălin Ivan, MEP and Member of the Economic Affairs Committee, and moderated by APCO Worldwide's CEO, Brad Staples.

In January 2018, Gibraltar delivered the first Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) Regulatory Framework, a purpose-built legislative framework for businesses that use blockchain or DLT. The principles-led approach allows businesses to swiftly engage with regulators while also providing the flexibility required for guidelines to evolve in line with the fast-moving nature of blockchain tech-



nology. Over the past number of weeks, the first of these licences have been granted by the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission (GFSC) to a number of leading firms including Coinfloor, Covesting, and the Gibraltar Blockchain Exchange (GBX).

“Gibraltar is a leading jurisdiction for sustainable blockchain innovation and supportive regulation, highlighted by the introduction of our DLT Regulatory Framework earlier this year. Featuring on this panel discussion is evidence of our commitment to collaborative blockchain development and ensuring a sustainable future for financial technologies. As Co-Chair of the DLT Working Group in Gibraltar I am firmly aware of the importance of these forums for the sharing of ideas, information, and knowledge”, concluded Mr Astengo.

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Paul Astengo is available for interview on request

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About Gibraltar

A British Overseas Territory, Gibraltar is a self-governing and self-financing democracy that has established itself globally as a reliable centre for the blockchain and digital assets industry. In January 2018, Gibraltar became the very first jurisdiction globally to introduce legislation around Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) and has since asserted its position as a leading blockchain and cryptocurrency hub. With Gibraltar’s core values of regulation, reputation and speed to market at the foundation of its efforts within the blockchain industry, Gibraltar is now globally renowned for its commitment to creating a sustainable and secure regulatory framework for blockchain, as well as being one of the leading proponents in the advancement of the technology.

For more information please visit: www.gibraltarfinance.gi

About Paul Astengo

Mr Astengo joined Gibraltar Finance in February 2013 and is responsible for the private client proposition which includes tax residence schemes, trust and company management, banking and electronic money. He has over 30 years’ commercial and banking experience in Gibraltar, London and Spain. His career has seen him undertake a wide variety of roles in both the domestic and international markets. A Co-Chair on the DLT Working Group, a partnership between public and private sectors, he also represents the Government on the New Technologies in Education Key Advisory Group (NTiE) and has driven the creation of the Gibraltar Association for New Technologies (GANT).