



PRESS RELEASE

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Chief Minister Attends Labour Party Conference

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC, left Gibraltar on Sunday to attend the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool.

On Sunday night the Chief Minister hosted the traditional Gibraltar Reception at which, in addition to the Chief Minister, the speakers included the Shadow Foreign Secretary, Emily Thornberry MP, and Clare Moody MEP and Kevin Coyne of Unite the Union.

During the course of the conference Mr Picardo's team has arranged meetings with Members of both Houses of Parliament in the UK and of the European Parliament, and also with representatives of the Devolved Administrations. In particular, the Chief Minister met with Labour front bench spokespersons and with Labour Lords.

Mr Picardo was also able to meet with the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, to discuss how Brexit issues will affect them and the areas of common interest in that respect.

Mr Picardo greeted and met briefly with Mr Corbyn, the newly re-elected Leader of the Labour Party.

The Chief Minister discussed the security and defence of the Rock, and MoD jobs in Gibraltar, with the Shadow Secretary of State for Defence, Clive Lewis MP.

On Monday evening the Chief Minister will take part in a fringe debate alongside former Shadow Foreign Secretary Hilary Benn MP, on "Europe: Breaking Up is Hard to Do". The debate is jointly organised by the New Statesman and Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar.

Mr Picardo said: "I have been attending Labour Party conferences for ten years now and have always sensed strong support for Gibraltar. This year, however, I feel there is deeper affection for us than ever before and also deep rooted concern for what Brexit can mean for Gibraltar. I have no doubt that this will be a sentiment manifesting itself across the political divide. In Liverpool I have been able to meet front bench representatives of the Labour Party in all relevant fields and to express to them our concerns in respect of the many facets that Brexit presents. They now understand what we are facing a little better and all are keen to help. All are shocked at the belligerence of Snr Margallo and the current, caretaker, Spanish administration. There is no doubt we have built strong support in the Labour Party and my own party's work in past years is coming in useful now that we need support."

The Chief Minister will return to Gibraltar on Tuesday 27th September.