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Unelected Azopardi's Brexit One-Upmanship Lets Gibraltar Down

The latest statement from the unelected leader of the GSD is a remarkable new low for Mr Azopardi.

The style and tactic adopted by the unelected Mr Azopardi demonstrates that he is once again putting his personal interests before those of Gibraltar and even of his new Party, the GSD, in his futile attempts at one-upmanship.

It is also pitiful to see him try to justify his in-out-in approach to membership of the GSD over the years, as he tries to excuse himself for the fact that it was the PDP that, mathematically, helped to ensure our defeat of the GSD in the 2011 General Election.

The Chief Minister of Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, said: "In his transparent desperation to get himself elected into Parliament under any party brand that will help propel him, Mr Azopardi is happily risking damaging Gibraltar's international negotiating position without giving such serious potential consequences a second thought. Mr Azopardi is blithely suggesting that the MoUs which we have negotiated to ensure Spain has no say in our affairs are somehow the opposite. That is not true by any objective assessment. Indeed, if what the unelected Mr Azopardi is saying were true, it would also have the consequent reciprocal effect of giving Gibraltar a say in Spain's affairs. Moreover, if what the unelected Mr Azopardi is saying were true, he should have spotted it when he was given advance sight of the texts, but he proposed no changes at all to them - limiting his proposal to seeking to add three words to the UK/Gibraltar Concordat.

"The fact is that the public is now seeing that the unelected Mr Azopardi is not the constructive Azopardi of the PDP.

"This is a consciously destructive Azopardi who is desperate to get his name in the papers to try to avoid the GSD under his leadership being overtaken by Marlene Hassan Nahon's Together Gibraltar.

"This is a consciously destructive Azopardi who sees the GSD under his leadership being less popular even that it was under Daniel Feetham, who many saw as being 'not of GSD stock' and whose arrival in the Party had prompted his own departure.

"The public can see clearly that the constructive Mr Azopardi of old has been replaced by a consciously destructive unelected Mr Azopardi who seems to have moved into a dangerous *modus operandi* where 'the ends justifies the means'. He appears quite ruthlessly happy to sacrifice



matters in our core common interests as a community just to try to scrape a vote here or there from whoever his warped logic might mislead or confuse in his attempt to cause division in our community and polarise the debate on this sensitive matter of Brexit. It says a lot.

"The right-thinking majority knows that the GSLP/Liberal Government that Joseph Garcia and I lead would never countenance any concessions. Our Cabinet, from Sir Joe Bossano through each and every man and woman represented in it, would never countenance any concessions.

"The unelected Mr Azopardi's statements are fast becoming Gibraltar's own staple diet of 'fake news'.

"Our nation can do without this incessant, unconstructive bluster at this sensitive time when we have so much to do. That's why I have done the responsible thing and said that I won't be calling an election before the 29th March, however much it may be in my own Party's interest and however much I might be childishly goaded into doing so by the desperate and unelected Mr Azopardi."