

## AVISO

### ***InfoGibraltar***

**Traducción de la edición de hoy del periódico *Daily Chronicle*, Gibraltar**

### **En España, los impuestos recaudados por la venta de tabaco pagan la educación, la sanidad y el coste del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores**

Gibraltar, 15 de septiembre de 2014

Las quejas españolas y su forma de presentar las estadísticas de venta de tabaco en Gibraltar de una forma tan desproporcionada que se equipara al gasto local en salud y educación han encontrado respuesta en una estadística igual de sorprendente publicada por fuentes oficiales de la UE.

La venta de tabaco en España genera suficientes ingresos como para cubrir el gasto público español en salud y educación y el coste del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y su red mundial de embajadas.

El mes pasado, en una serie de artículos atacando a Gibraltar, el periódico ABC citaba a una fuente de la Hacienda Pública española al publicar un titular que aseguraba que la venta de tabaco financiaba el gasto gibraltareño en educación y sanidad. La cifra ofrecida se aproxima a la realidad; según el último presupuesto el gasto en educación y sanidad fue de casi 138 millones de libras.

Sin embargo, las estadísticas de la Comisión Europea demuestran que España recaudó un total de 6.351 millones de euros mediante impuestos sobre cigarrillos en 2013, que ascienden a 7.108 millones si se tienen en cuenta los puros y otros productos de tabaco. Según informes de la prensa española, el presupuesto del gobierno español dedicado a salud (3.850 millones de euros) y educación (1.950 millones de euros) y el coste del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores (1.050 millones de euros) sumaron 6.850 millones de euros en 2013.

La correlación entre los ingresos [por tabaco] y el gasto [en salud y educación] establecida por ABC es arbitraria, pero sí pone de manifiesto la distorsión y el sesgo que se aplican en España a la hora de elaborar estadísticas relacionadas con el Peñón.

Gran parte del creciente problema de España es que el éxito de las medidas antitabaco y la promoción de la salud han generado un descenso en el número de fumadores. Según un informe publicado el mes pasado por El País, las ventas se han reducido casi a la mitad en la última década.

El año pasado, la Comisión de Cuentas Públicas (Public Accounts Committee, PAC) del Reino Unido explicó que la economía británica había perdido casi 1.900 millones de libras anuales a causa del contrabando de tabaco, lo cual equivaldría al 20% de los impuestos recaudados por venta de cigarrillos.

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El contrabando de tabaco proveniente de Francia es habitual en el Reino Unido por un buen motivo: según cifras publicadas por la Asociación de Fabricantes de Tabaco (Tobacco Manufacturers Association) en junio de 2014, el precio medio para el consumidor de un paquete de 20 cigarrillos de primera marca en el Reino Unido es de 8,47 libras, comparado con 5,74 en Francia. Esto supone una diferencia de 2,73 libras por cada paquete vendido al precio habitual.

Es más, en la actualidad la diferencia entre Francia y España, donde el tabaco es más barato, es de 1,85 libras, y entre Gibraltar (2,50 libras) y España (3,89 libras), es de 1,39 libras.

En Europa existen varios lugares donde se venden cigarrillos a un precio menor que en Gibraltar, entre ellos Turquía y la mayor parte de Europa del este.

En 2013, la Mesa del Tabaco de España (de la cual British American Tobacco España es miembro fundador) encargó a la consultora internacional AFI un estudio del impacto del sector del tabaco sobre la economía española. Este estudio puso de manifiesto que el sector del tabaco en España abarca una amplia gama de actividades, desde el cultivo y la fabricación hasta la venta, y aporta un gran valor a la economía mediante la generación de empleo y la recaudación de impuestos.

“La cifra incluye más de 2.700 millones de euros (2.188 millones de libras) en valor añadido bruto, el equivalente a más de 56.000 puestos de trabajo a jornada completa, y más de 9.800 millones de euros (7.942 millones de libras) en impuestos al año. La importancia económica del tabaco se deja sentir especialmente en ciertas zonas del país, como las Islas Canarias, donde el tabaco aporta 193 millones de euros (156 millones de libras) en valor añadido bruto y genera 4.568 empleos”, explica el informe.

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# GIBRALTAR CHRONICLE



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## Happy Birthday Prince Harry



Prince Harry today celebrates his 30th birthday - an important moment for the Queen's grandson, who has come of age. The big day is likely to be marked by a party with family and close friends, and comes after a busy summer for the fourth in line to the throne. Turning 30 will also mean the (Continued on page 2)



**CHESS IN SCHOOLS:** Education Minister Gilbert Licudi was presented with one thousand chess sets and chess books so that pupils entering middle school for the next three years will receive one each to take home. In the picture is Director of Education, Dr Joey Britto, Department of Education members, head teachers of the schools, Stuart Conquest, the sponsors - James Humphreys of Tradewise and Peter Caetano of Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch - and Brian Callaghan, organiser of the Tradewise Chess Festival and whose initiative it was to launch this project. See page 3. Pic: Johnny Bugeja

## Govt 'like rabbits caught in headlights' say GSD

The GSD has said that the Government appear to be acting like rabbits caught in headlights over the fishing crisis hoping that people do not notice the fact that there is more fishing with nets in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters than ever before.

In a statement the GSD said: "It is now two years since the Government did away with the 1999 Agreement and, two years on, the Nature Protection Act is neither being properly enforced nor has the Government introduced its intended legislation to regulate fishing with nets."

When the crisis first broke in 2012 the Government decided to commission experts to produce a Fishing Report to guide its policy.

That report commended the (Continued on page 2)

## Spain's tobacco duty pays for its education, health and foreign ministry

by Dominique Searle



Spanish claims and their presentation of statistics to the effect that the sale of cigarettes by Gibraltar is so disproportionate that it covers the cost of the local health and education bill can now be met with an equally startling statistic obtained from EU official sources.

The sale of tobacco in Spain

generates enough revenue to cover the Spanish public health and education bill and the cost of running the Spanish Foreign Ministry and its global network of embassies.

Last month, in a series of articles targeting Gibraltar, the ABC newspaper quoted a Spanish Customs and Excise source for its headline that tobacco was paying the entire Gibraltar health and education cost. The figure is not generally disputed. Health and education come to just under £138m as at the last budget.

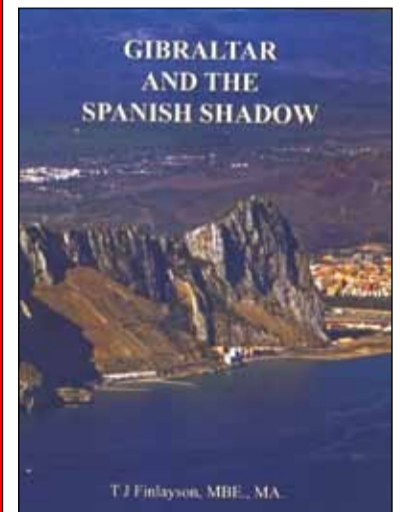
But statistics from the European Commission show that Spain earned a total 6.351 billion euros from tax on cigarettes in 2013, reaching a total

7.108 billion that year when cigars and other tobacco products are included. According to Spanish press reports the Spanish Government's budget for health (3.85 billion euros), education (1.95 billion euros) and Ministry for Foreign Affairs (1.05 billion euros) for 2013 totalled 6.85 billion euros.

The attribution of the sum and spending by ABC is arbitrary but it highlights the mythology and distortion that surrounds the production of statistics in relation to the Rock by Spain.

But part of Spain's growing problem is that success in anti-smoking laws and health drive has seen a dramatic decline in smoking. According to a report (Continued on page 2)

## Finlayson's new book on 'Gibraltar and the Spanish Shadow'



A new history book on Gibraltar by former Government archivist Tommy Finlayson is being launched today. 'Gibraltar and (Continued on page 2)

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# Gibraltar opens its doors to Insurance Linked Securities

Albert Isola, Minister for Financial Services, has welcomed the publication of the ILS Guidelines by Gibraltar's financial regulator, the Financial Services Commission (FSC).

The Government, with the support and participation of ILS experts from around the world, established a working group that has been providing industry expertise and feedback to the Government and the FSC over recent months as the FSC has been finalising the ILS Guidelines.

Officials said that Gibraltar's ILS Guidelines have been prepared to be fully Solvency II compliant based on the most up to date EIOPA position. Gibraltar plans to offer a new European Union (EU) domicile for cat bonds, sidecars, collateralised reinsurance based ILS transactions and has been working closely with industry professionals to ensure the

Guidelines and processes are fit for purpose.

"Gibraltar has a vibrant and growing insurance sector with some £3.6 billion of premium income in 2013. Last year the Government set out to develop and attract new insurance activity to Gibraltar with the ILS sector being a serious target market. I am most grateful to all those individuals and companies, from Gibraltar and abroad, that have invested significant time and provided invaluable input and know-how to the working group over recent months. I am confident that with their support and contribution Gibraltar's ILS Guidelines provide both the commercial and regulatory frameworks to enable ILS business to flourish from Gibraltar," said Mr Isola.

Joe Perdoni, the recently appointed Head of Prudential at the FSC, remarked that the

Commission looks forward to working with the ILS industry to develop this new insurance sector in Gibraltar, within a strong regulatory framework.

"The working group has been very supportive and provided valuable market insight to the FSC and I thank them for their contribution. We fully appreciate the time to market under which the capital markets operate in the ILS sector and we are confident that our Guidelines will support those market requirements whilst maintaining at all times a robust and highly professional regulatory environment." The introduction of these innovative new products to Gibraltar's financial services sector is an example of the effective and close working relationship between the Ministry of Financial Services, Gibraltar Finance, the FSC and the private sector both locally and internationally, said Mr Isola.

## Spain's tobacco duty pays for its ...

(Continued from front page)

in El Pais last month sales have dropped by almost half in a decade.

Last year the UK's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) said the UK economy lost £1.9bn a year through tobacco smuggling, equal to 20% of all tax collected on cigarettes.

Smuggling is common from France into UK for a reason. According to June 2014 figures from the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association in UK the average price to a consumer for a pack of 20 premium brand cigarettes in UK is £8.47 compared with £5.74 in France, a differential of £2.73 a pack from over the counter sales.

And whilst the difference between France and Spain, which is cheaper, is £1.85, the price difference between Gibraltar (£2.50) and Spain (£3.89) is now £1.39.

Places in Europe selling cigarettes cheaper than Gibraltar include most of Eastern Europe and Turkey.

British American Tobacco (BAT) commissioned an economic impact study in 2013 which looked at Spain. It found that in Spain, an assessment into the economic impact of the tobacco sector on the Spanish economy was conducted by AFI, an international consultancy, and commissioned by the Spanish Tobacco Round Table - of which

BAT Spain is a member. It found that the tobacco sector in Spain includes a wide range of activities, ranging from cultivation to manufacturing to retail and is important for the economy in generating employment and tax revenue.

"This includes more than €2,700 million (£2,188 million) in gross value added (GVA), over 56,000 full-time equivalent jobs and over €9,800 million (£7,942 million) in annual taxes. The economic importance of tobacco is particularly the case for some areas of the country, such as the Canary Islands, where tobacco contributes €193 million (£156 million) in GVA and generates 4,568 jobs," it said.

## Govt 'like rabbits caught in headlights' say GSD

(Continued from front page)

existing legislation with its ban on fishing with nets.

"Despite that, in November of last year the Government decided to introduce changes to the Nature Protection Act, which were intended to be a first step to regulate fishing with EU compliant nets."

"There are many legitimate questions that the Government refuses to answer about its policy in this area including whether Spanish Fishermen will have to

apply for a licence in Gibraltar."

The Leader of the Opposition, Daniel Feetham, said "the Government are acting like rabbits caught in headlights. There appears to be no coherent policy other than to prevaricate and delay the introduction of laws to regulate fishing with nets, whilst hoping that people do not notice that there is more fishing with nets by Spanish Fishermen than ever before."

He continued: "Politics is about

taking and defending decisions and the Government should get on with introducing the necessary legislation to regulate fishing. We would certainly support the Government in any sensible attempt to do so. However, once regulations are introduced they have to be properly enforced. Otherwise, it makes a mockery of the rule of law which is what is happening today. A continuation of the current free for all in BGTW simply cannot be justified".

# ERG launches 'access to justice initiative'



The Equality Rights Group has announced the commencement of an initiative aiming to increase opportunities for individuals in borderline cases where they might just fail to qualify for legal aid or legal assistance.

The ERG is proposing a properly "administered" and "regulated" pro-bono scheme which will allow individuals to obtain legal advice free of charge.

Felix Alvarez, Chairman of ERG said: "As part of our commitment and obligation to properly research and study the issues in some depth, I have met and entered into detailed discussions in London with representatives of various UK-based organisations in this field - notably The Access to Justice Foundation, the Bar Council's Pro Bono Unit, and related NGOs such as Pro Bono Community, LawWorks, and the Federation of Law Centre."

As a result, Mr Alvarez says the ERG have been able to gather relevant and practical working data and expertise to be able to gauge the manner in which measures implemented under English law some years ago could be learnt from and perhaps implemented in the context of Gibraltar.

"This background research having been done, we will now be proceeding to direct consultation and discussions with the Minister for Justice, Gilbert Licudi, in order to lay before him our findings and enter into preliminary exploration of the initiative."

The Government is already well into a review of provisions for Legal Aid and Legal Assistance.

And the ERG is keen to ensure that measures which, at no

further cost to the public purse, may result in individuals being able to obtain access to Justice through Pro Bono (non-paid) legal representation via a Scheme properly administered and regulated, are properly and sufficiently considered.

Such a Scheme would be complementary to - and not substitute - the Legal Aid and Assistance Scheme, and would therefore extend provisions for such access.

"The benefits to ordinary people's ability to obtain access to our legal system, as well as to Gibraltar generally as a fair society are too important to ignore," Mr Alvarez added.

"And it is for this reason that ERG is undertaking this project, a contribution which goes to the very heart of our commitment to people's rights and to fairness for everyone throughout our social and legal system."

"There will be many issues to iron out. And we fully intend to engage with primary stakeholders such as Government and the Bar Council as well as taking into account other possible stakeholders in that process."

"We are hopeful and confident that Government will recognise the win-win benefits all round to Gibraltar, its legal community, and its citizens. And ERG, as before, will work diligently and constructively with all parties to make a reliable and successful Pro Bono Legal service an eventual reality."

"For the sake of the individuals concerned, for this Community as a whole, and because the principle of a fairer Access to Justice system is the only course of action for an ethical and just society."

## Finlayson's new book on 'Gibraltar and the Spanish Shadow'

(Continued from front page)

the Spanish Shadow' covers the period from 1945 to 1985. This is the sequel to his last book 'Military Fortress and Commercial Colony'.

This new book will be launched this evening at seven by the Chief Minister Fabian Picardo at the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, The Main Guard.

The books covers the Rock's

major events over a 40 year period through the Constitutional crisis of the fifties to the first UN sessions with Sir Joshua Hassan and Peter Isola. The Referendum of 1967, the closed frontier years, the opening and Strasbourg and Lisbon.

In his forward Mr Finlayson, a regular contributor to the Gibraltar Chronicle, writes of the Gibraltarian struggle to

achieve basic civil rights.

"After 1945, with the advent of modern weaponry, Gibraltar lost some its value as a Fortress though it still retained some value as a base for the Western Alliance. However, as the shadow of the Fortress receded, another shadow appeared in the shape of Spain's persistent claim to the sovereignty of the Rock," he writes.

## Happy Birthday Prince Harry

(Continued from front page)

fourth in line to the throne will be entitled to a multi-million pound inheritance - estimated at £10.7 million - left to him by his mother Diana, Princess of

Wales.

And with a successful career as an Army captain the prince appears to be striving forward to a promising future.

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