

integration tomorrow but there would be no support for this on the Rock. He does not think that integration is the best way forward for Gibraltar. He hopes that Gibraltar will come up with a better way to update the Constitution. An electoral register of some 18,000 is not sufficient to justify an MP in Westminster although he does accept that there is an exception to every rule. He reiterated that it is not for Westminster politicians to put forward ideas to decolonise Gibraltar as this is the job of the elected representatives of the Gibraltarians.

Garnier accepts that huge difficulties exist in respect of the citizens of the European Union living in Gibraltar being given a MEP or a vote. Demands to

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Brussels for a share of an MEP will be met with the reply that the nearest constituency can be enlarged. It would not be realistic to expect to be tagged onto a constituency in England, so Gibraltar might be added to the Andalucian constituency; he did not see this being accepted by the Gibraltarians. In his opinion Gibraltar's current interests are best served by maintaining the status quo. This means that the United Kingdom, one of the most influential players at Brussels, can put forward a well argued case on behalf of the Gibraltarians.

He accepts that there is presently an impasse over the airport but feels that greater use of North Front can be the motor to drive the economies of both Gibraltar and the Campo de Gibraltar. It is necessary for politicians for politicians from both sides of the

border to get together and produce political solutions that will lead to more use of the airport. Politicians must not get bogged down with flags as discussion linked with sufficient political resolve can resolve the majority of problems. Without discussion there can be no resolution of any political problem.

Regional Economic Co-operation need not involve flags. Chambers of Commerce can foster economic co-operation which can lead to increased financial and trading on both sides of the border without necessarily involving governments. There might well be political objects to Gibraltar and its hinterland putting in joint applications to Brussels for cohesion and structural funds.

He had heard that David Davis's visit had been a great political success. The general atmosphere

had altered so much since the dark months of the summer. He expected and hoped that over the next decade Gibraltar will thrive commercially and also increase its population by welcoming outside buyers of property who will soon be assimilated into the community.

Edward Garnier concluded this valuable insight into how the Gibraltar problem is viewed at Westminster by saying how impressed he had been during his short visit and how he saw Gibraltar and its inhabitants poised to take maximum advantage of the improvement in relations between Gibraltar and the United Kingdom and finally Gibraltar and Spain.