



Press Release

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

ISLE OF MAN BRANCH

The Isle of Man Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was represented at the 33rd Conference of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region of the Association, held in Cardiff from 8th to 12th April 2002, by a delegation led by Mrs Hazel Hannan MHK, Chair of the Isle of Man Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The other members were Hon Clare Christian MLC, Mr Peter Karran MHK and Mr George Waft MLC. The delegation was accompanied by Mrs Marilyn Cullen, the Deputy Clerk of Tynwald, who is the Assistant Secretary of the Branch.

The topics discussed at the Conference were -

1. "Public Participation in the Democratic Process";
2. "The Impact of the Euro";
3. "Managing Waste to Protect the Environment"; and
4. "Tourism as a Sector of the Economy".

There was also a business meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British Islands and Mediterranean Region, at which it was agreed that a Working Party be set up to consider the future development of the Region.

The Conference was also attended by delegates from Alderney, Cyprus, England, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey, Malta, Northern Ireland, St Helena, Scotland and Wales. Special Guests included Mr John Mills MP from New South Wales, Australia and Hon Denis Marshall QSO, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

A short visit to the Conference was made by Hon Peter Caruana, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, and the Conference agreed to hear his statement on the current situation in Gibraltar. Conference also agreed that the following message from the Gibraltar delegation be received –

“That the Executive Committee convey a strong message to the British Government that it should cease the current negotiations with Spain in relation to Gibraltar since it is against the wishes of the people of Gibraltar as the outcome of these negotiations is pre-determined. It further adds that the representatives of the British Isles and Mediterranean Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association believe that the right of self-determination of the people of Gibraltar is paramount.”

The Regional Representatives agreed to table the message at the next meeting of the Executive Committee, which is to take place at the end of April 2002. Mrs Cheryl Gillan MP, UK delegate, also agreed to convey the concerns of the Gibraltar delegation to the relevant authorities within the UK Government

23rd April 2002