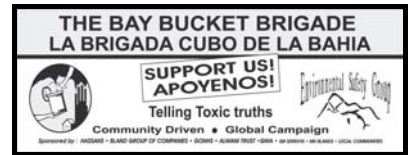




# ESG NEWSLETTER 2004



*"We are very proud of the major achievement of this year with the establishment of the Bay Bucket Brigade. This has fostered strong ties with communities on both sides of the border and recently resulted in a massive anti-pollution march that could not be ignored. Thank you for your continued support without which we could not keep battling onwards for a cleaner and safer environment for all."*

*ESG Committee*

## • UPDATE ON CAMPAIGNS AND ONGOING ISSUES •



**Bay Bucket Brigade**



**Oil Refinery Emissions**



**Gibraltar Power Station**



**Bunkering**



**Traffic in Gib**



**Mountain of grit at  
Cammel Laird**

The ESG has this year been working on the above captioned issues among others, by meeting or contacting industry and Government; writing press releases and pressing for best available technology to be applied in all areas. The group states that until such time as we in Gibraltar have an environmental policy and charter we shall continue to see decisions being taken solely on economic grounds and this is simply **no longer acceptable!**

Contact us on 43156 or 71020 website: [www.esg-gib.net](http://www.esg-gib.net)

Newsletter sponsored by Hassans, ESG legal advisers

- **Bay Bucket Brigade:** has revealed information on air quality that industry and Govt. have so far refused to provide. These results will support existing complaints to the European Commission. Between the sampling and the anti-pollution protest, the Spanish authorities have been persuaded to significantly improve their monitoring standards. The ESG will nevertheless continue to take its own samples and keep an eye on the results that the Spanish authorities' monitoring produces.
- **Oil Refinery:** Emissions from this plant remain the focus of much of the work undertaken by the cross-border *Bay Bucket Brigade*. The ESG has scientific evidence confirming that this plant is breaking Spanish (as well as European) health and environmental laws and is conducting a separate investigation into the possibility of direct legal action. (*Please look out for a programme called **Escarabajo Verde on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2004 at 5.00pm on TVE1, featuring Puente Mayorga & the Bay Bucket Brigade.***)
- **Electricity generation in Gibraltar:** Gibraltar currently meets its electricity demands using three power stations. One is owned by the MoD but supplies part of its capacity for local use. The main plant is OESCO, which is privately owned and is under contract to supply Govt. and the third is GibElec, which belongs to Govt. and is situated opposite Gib V. All these plants produce air and noise pollution that constitute both a nuisance and a health hazard. According to a document recently published by Govt., both the OESCO and GibElec plants are due to double their production without any efforts being made to address the air and noise pollution levels suffered by nearby residents. This is going to be very bad news indeed to those badly affected and the ESG is conducting a number of campaigns to apply pressure for improvements in this area.
  - 1) Complaint to EC that Gib Govt. must do more to protect health of citizens and environment.
  - 2) Court action against private industry to invest in pollution reduction technology.
  - 3) Protest to be supported by leafleting to generate as much support from the community as possible.
 To this end, the ESG recently co-ordinated a symbolic cycle protest starting at OESCO and finishing at a wind farm to raise awareness of this issue. The group hopes that Govt. will commission a study to explore energy efficiency and the use of clean technology and alternative energy options for Gibraltar. So far this seems as unlikely as the epidemiological study called for by all the residents of the Bay into the health effects from the toxic emissions from heavy industry. But the ESG will continue to push for this study.
- **Cammel Laird:** The ESG has met with this company and is not impressed with the environmental standards of its operations. The two chronic problems affecting the nearby residential areas are **paint over-spray** and the **accumulation of sandblasting grit**. There are health risks associated with both issues and these are being looked into by the ESG. After several letters (including open ones), the group is now considering more serious measures that should be announced in the media shortly. Regulations are developing all the time to control the use of marine paints and disposal of hazardous waste. The ESG will push for these regulations to be enforced for the benefit of the community and the environment alike.
- **Bunkering:** Gibraltar receives approx 10 to 20 ships for bunkering per day. Some of these moor very close to shore (e.g. opposite F.H.Q.) and frequently the stench of fuel oil invades residential areas. These smelly hydrocarbons pose a similar health risk to those from the refinery operations. The ESG recently contacted the Captain of the Port to ask whether any vapour recovery systems were used and/or whether anyone checks that safety levels for fumes hitting the shoreline are not being exceeded. The ESG considers that more needs to be done and will be investigating this further.
- **Traffic:** Although the new bus system is a vast improvement to the previous one, the ESG still believes that a proactive approach to managing the road environment is still necessary in Gibraltar. Traffic congestion is the norm and with import duties and taxes as they are, more and more vehicles continue to be imported as though we had infinite road and parking space. This is clearly a difficult area politically but nevertheless an issue that the community must begin to think about and address. Imagine a Gibraltar with parking facilities to remove most cars from the road side, freeing these up for walking, cycling etc... Imagine a Gibraltar free from traffic fumes, where electric trams operate with ease and comfort... Managing these issues requires transparency, honesty and imagination. I am sure we have those qualities on the Rock- let's use them to improve our quality of life!

- **Recycling:** Gibraltar must catch up with the rest of Europe and begin recycling in earnest. The ESG will continue to lobby Govt., who should be leading the field on this and not simply be waiting for commercial ventures to spring up.

**Contact us on 43156 or 71020 see our website : [www.esg-gib.net](http://www.esg-gib.net)**