

CAMPO PRESS CLAIM ECONOMIC PRESSURE LEADING TO LOW LEVEL CIGARETTE RESURGE

The financial crisis and high unemployment in the Campo de Gibraltar could lead to an increase in low-level cigarette smuggling across the border, according to Spanish newspaper Europa Sur.

One kiosk owner in Gibraltar told the newspaper that tobacco sales had increased sharply in recent weeks.

"We have all types of clients including a lot of people who are unemployed," she said. "They have to look for ways to make ends meet and put food on the table."

Officially, tobacco seizures at the border have remained relatively flat and there is no hard evidence to suggest a sharp increase in contraband.

But the gap between cigarette

prices in Gibraltar and those in Spain mean there is undoubtedly some margin for profit. Many people still exploit that margin, either for their own personal consumption or for financial gain.

A carton of Marlboro that costs 18 Euros in Gibraltar retails for 30 Euros at tobacco shops across the border, though the black market price in Spain is somewhere in between.

Europa Sur estimated that a person taking a carton of cig-

arettes across the border could expect to make five euros on its sale.

There is evidence too that, aside from the small-scale smugglers, the cross-border trade in contraband cigarettes continues to be targeted by organised gangs.

Last week, the Guardia Civil arrested two Spanish nationals who were allegedly trying to bribe border officers to turn a blind eye to tobacco shipments hidden in false compartments in a vehicle.

NO SMOKING IN LIFTS REQUEST AT MONTAGU GARDENS

As the campaign against smoking in public places and the concern over second-hand smoke intensifies, Montagu Gardens has called on its residents to refrain from smoking in lifts. According to an estate newsletter a spokesman for the management company is asking for the cooperation of smokers not to light up while using the lifts.

"In such a confined space the smoke remains for hours on end. We have children who for example may be asthmatic and exposing them to passive smoking is most unhealthy. In such a situation responsible parent have to carry the child and buggy up the steps. Kindly cooperate with us and please do not smoke while using the lifts."

Provides comprehensive legal advice concerning any kind of real estate operation, including: helping clients through every aspect of property purchase to ensure that the buyer acquires unencumbered; legal and tax advice relevant to the transaction - including the establishment of national and international tax structures; help and advice in developing real estate opportunities including all legal aspects of a development such as setting up real estate companies and advising on their funding; and arranging rental or other contracts relating to property deals.

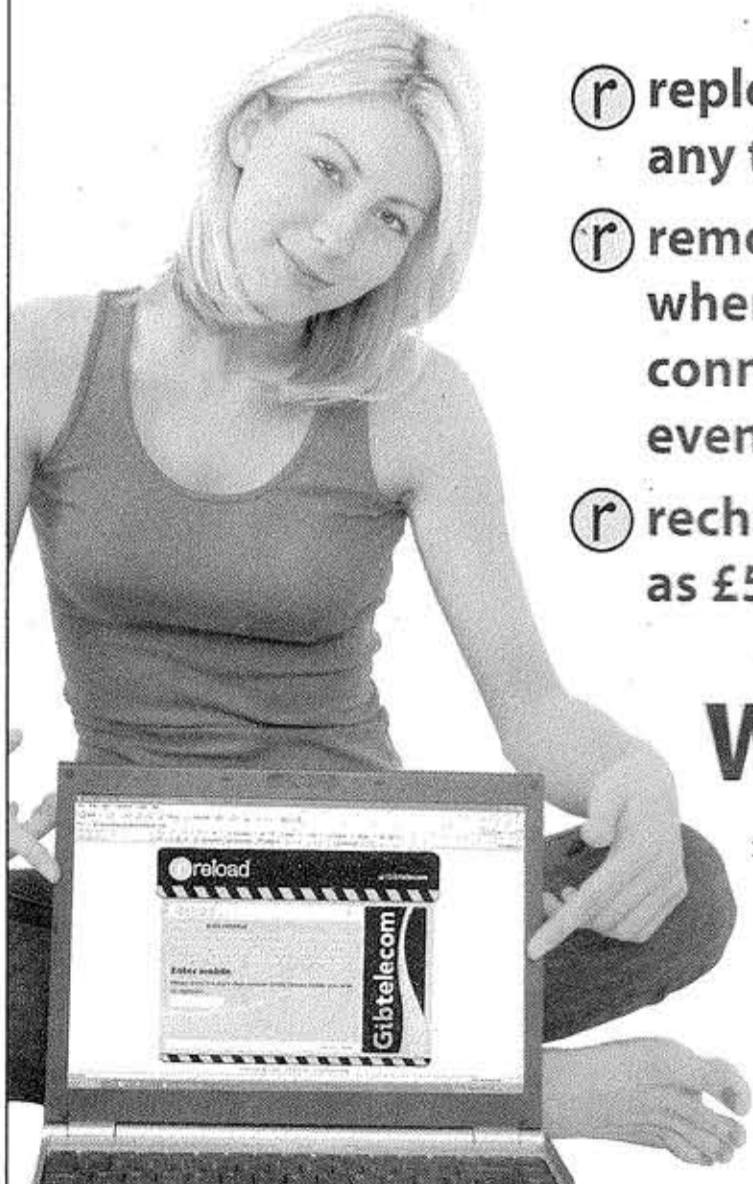
"Though Rural and Town planning and re-zoning is one of the pillars of Morocco's economic up-surge, processing planning applications can be complicated," says Cruz.




"Our team provides local knowledge and a grasp of the rules of the game, while respecting the necessary legal procedures, helping clients respond to such challenges as those related to planning and construction, particularly where these involve the purchase of ruins, or enforcement orders."

The team also handles due diligence procedures in acquiring land and buildings, also reporting on classification and zoning of land, the uses of building and the distribution areas these serve.

The Moroccan firm has also established a Commercial and Corporate Law Department, which with the support of Balms Group International provides a wide range of services including regular advice on company incorporation, acquisitions and mergers and on tax structures. It also advises on regulations relating to foreign investments in Morocco, and Moroccan investments abroad.

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