



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Gibraltar's Minister for Commerce to Visit Washington for Second Annual DC Fintech Week**

*Minister Isola Scheduled for Panel Discussion on Regulatory Competition*

**Gibraltar – 7th November 2018** - The Government of Gibraltar today announced that Gibraltar's Minister for Commerce Albert Isola will be attending the second annual [DC Fintech Week](#), where he will be taking part in a panel discussion entitled 'Making or Taking Innovation?, Regulatory Competition and the Race for Fintech Dominance', from 10:30–11:45am on Thursday 8th November, presenting to an audience of policymakers, academics, lawyers, and regulators.

Commenting ahead of DC Fintech Week, the Government of Gibraltar's Minister for Commerce Albert Isola said, "I'm very excited to attend DC Fintech Week, and to take part in a robust panel discussion with a number of esteemed professionals to examine the current global regulatory landscape. DC Fintech Week captures the spirit of collaboration and innovation that is intrinsically linked to the sustainable growth of the blockchain ecosystem, bringing together a range of thought leaders from fintech firms across the country—from PayPal to Amazon."

Each day of Fintech Week will feature off-the-record sessions focused on crypto-assets; robots, finance and the law; as well as smart regulation. Since its inception, Fintech Week has generated significant interest from both market participants and top regulators with this year's event taking place across three locations: Georgetown Law, the International Monetary Fund, and on Capitol Hill.



Minister Isola's panel discussion on regulatory competition will be moderated by Gary de Waal, Special Counsel, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP and Vice Chairman, The Institute for Financial Markets. The panel will explore how intense competition for technological innovation is informing regulatory policy in jurisdictions seeking to raise their profiles as leading tech hubs - and the national, cross-border, and global implications.

Minister Isola will be joined on the panel by a number of leading figures from the fintech, cybersecurity, and legal sectors. These include Douglas Arner, Kerry Holdings Professor in Law, at the The University of Hong Kong; Peter Kerstens, Advisor on Financial Technology and Cybersecurity to the Director General FISMA and Co-Chair of European Commission Fintech Taskforce, at the European Commission; Sharon Yang, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Financial Markets, at the U.S. Department of the Treasury; Nydia Remolina León, Legal Advisor for Innovation, Digital Transformation and Policy Affairs, at Grupo Bancolombia.

"Representing Gibraltar on this global stage gives expression to our firm ambition to play a leading role in helping to shape the future of blockchain regulation. As ever, Gibraltar continues to punch above its weight, and is fast becoming an assertive voice in an increasingly noisy space. I look forward to engaging with a range of visionaries over the course of DC Fintech Week, as we collectively strive towards fintech excellence," concluded Minister Isola.

*Minister Albert Isola is available for interview*

For more information on DC Fintech Week, please visit <http://dcfintechweek.org/>

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## **About Gibraltar**



A British Overseas Territory, Gibraltar is a self-governing and self-financing democracy that has established itself globally as a reliable centre for the blockchain and digital assets industry. In January 2018, Gibraltar became the very first jurisdiction globally to introduce legislation around Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), and has since asserted its position as a leading blockchain and cryptocurrency hub. With Gibraltar's core values of regulation, reputation and speed to market at the foundation of its efforts within the blockchain industry, Gibraltar is now globally renowned for its commitment to creating a sustainable and secure regulatory framework for blockchain, as well as being one of the leading proponents in the advancement of the technology.

For more information please visit: [www.gibraltarfinance.gi](http://www.gibraltarfinance.gi)

### **About Albert Isola**

The Hon Albert Isola MP is Gibraltar's Minister for Commerce with the primary responsibility of raising Gibraltar's profile as an established onshore, mainstream, well-regulated financial services centre. Working closely with the financial services regulator, the Financial Services Commission, he is responsible for financial services policy, product development, and responding to international initiatives such as international tax compliance. Minister Isola played a leading role in the establishment of the Gibraltar International Bank, a first for Gibraltar as a home-grown full-service credit institution.