



INSULEUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY – WELCOME NOTE

Joseph Borg

Wednesday 30 November 2022

Honourable Roman Rodriguez Vice President of the Government of Gran Canarias;

And

Luis Padron Lopez President of the Chamber of Commerce of Las Palmas of Gran Canaria

Thank you for your honouring us with your presence. I would like to thank the Regional Government of Gran Canaria, and the *Cámara Oficial de Comercio Industria y Navegación de Gran Canaria* for inviting us, and hosting the INSULEUR General Assembly which is being held today on Wednesday 30 November 2022.

During today's General Assembly and the Convention which will be held in the following two days, and which will tackle the subject of sustainable tourism, we will be focusing on important subjects which are important for European islands. Tomorrow's Convention will be a very important event as it will bring together the private sector and government in discussing such an important topic. Islands depend on tourism, and it is critical for them to discuss this issue in view also of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which according to my opinion has continued to redefine this sector.

There are many challenges ahead and during my interventions at various levels, I had the opportunity to discuss them at length including the impact of the proposed taxation on aviation fuels. INSULEUR is already working to be able to present its position on the subject. I am sure that today we will have a fruitful discussion.

INSULEUR has and will continue to remain an important organisation in putting forward the agenda of islands at all levels, and I am happy that more islands are realising this, and joining our organisation.