## <u>Galácticos and Bianconeri set for a</u> <u>world-class croeso in sporting</u> <u>showpiece</u>

With the line up for the men's UEFA Champions League Final now complete, Economy Secretary Ken Skates has outlined what two of the world's biggest clubs can expect when they come to Wales in June.

With around 170,000 additional visitors expected in Cardiff and an estimated global TV audience of 200 million across 200 countries and territories, few events can match the Champions League Final for size and scope. Cardiff is expected to be incredibly busy and alive with not only Spanish and Italian voices, but with people and languages from every corner of the globe, including an estimated 2,500 members of the media. A security operation befitting the size of the event will also be in place, aimed at ensuring a safe and successful event for visitors and locals alike.

Economy Secretary, Ken Skates said:

"These are two clubs and cities who already have a rich footballing affinity with Wales, sharing with us a love for footballing greats John Charles, Ian Rush, John Toshack and Gareth Bale, to name a few.

"But for many fans, this will be their first visit to Wales and they will find a country ready and determined to deliver a well-organised and well-resourced event — a real celebration of football both inside and outside our capital city. The excitement across Wales is palpable.

"For a city and country of our size to be chosen to host such a prestigious event is unprecedented and builds on our success in hosting the Ryder Cup, Ashes and NATO amongst many others, further cementing our standing as world class hosts.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for people across the world to see what Wales can deliver, whilst providing hundreds of thousands the opportunity to sample our excellent tourism, produce and business offering.

"Croeso. Welcome. Bienvenido. Benvenuto. We are ready and excited to host the biggest sporting event of the year and look forward to players and supporters of these two great clubs joining us for the sporting showpiece of 2017."