



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE D3 ADV (2018)

North Western Waters Advisory
Council
Mr. Emiel Brouckaert
Chair of the Executive Committee
BIM, PO Box 12
Crofton Road,
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin
Ireland

Subject: Your request for clarification on UK membership of the NWWAC after 29 March 2019

Your ref. your letter of 4 September 2018

Dear Mr. Brouckaert,

Thank you for your above-mentioned letter regarding the status of UK member organisations in the North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC) after 29 March 2019. In particular, you enquire whether UK members would be able to continue as full members of the North Western Waters Advisory Council until the end of the transition period.

As it stands now, the Draft Withdrawal Agreement provides for a transition period until 31 December 2020. During this period, the principle would be that the UK would retain the same rights and obligations as it has as a Member State, and will consequently be fully bound by the CFP.

However, there are some exceptions, such as participation in the decision-making processes from which it will be excluded. A guidance document setting out practical implications related to withdrawal and transition – including the participation of UK stakeholders in different EU fora – will be published after the Withdrawal Agreement has been signed.

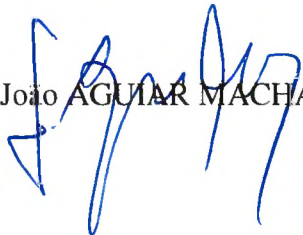
In addition, I would like to remind the following: in case no withdrawal agreement would be ratified, the United Kingdom would become a “third country” from 30 March 2019. In such a situation however, UK representatives of the fisheries sector and of other groups of interest that have a fishing interest in the area or fisheries covered by an Advisory Council may be invited to participate to meetings as active observers¹. Advisory

¹ See point (k) of paragraph 2 of Annex III of the CFP Regulation (EC) No 1380/2013 (OJ L354, 28.12.2013, p.22).

Councils may also contribute to the travel and accommodation expenses of those observers under the same conditions that they apply for their members².

My services are available to discuss any further developments and I invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson, as coordinator of the ACs (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273) should you have any question on this reply.

Yours sincerely,


Joao AGUIAR MACHADO

C.c.: Mrs. Veits, Roller, Colson, Vaigauskaite, de Diego
Messrs. Paardekooper, Van Den Bossche

² See Article 6§2 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/242 (OJ L41 of 17.2.2015, p. 1)