

Dublin, 4th September 2018

Subject: Request for clarification on UK membership of the NWWAC after 19 March 2019

Dear Mr Machado,

The Advisory Councils play a significant role supporting the European Commission in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy. The North Western Waters Advisory Council is keen to continue and further improve this collaboration, but realises that the exit of the UK from the European Union (BREXIT) may present a major challenge to the engagement of stakeholders in the region.

In September 2017, the NWWAC initiated a discussion at Inter-AC level on the 'Functioning of the Advisory Councils', not only in the context of BREXIT, but also in anticipation of an evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy. This subject has also received regular attention within the Executive Committee of the NWWAC.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee (Ghent, 4th July 2018) several members expressed their concern about the membership status of UK organisations in the Advisory Councils after 19 March 2019. In line with a political agreement on a transition period – albeit on the apparent understanding that this has to be confirmed in a withdrawal agreement – it seemed logical to the NWWAC that the UK membership of the Advisory Council would remain unchanged, at least until the end of such a transition.

The NWWAC Executive Committee, therefore, decided to ask the European Commission to provide clarification on the status of UK member organisations in Advisory Councils after 19 March 2019. This topic will be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Executive Committee (Dublin, 13 September 2018) where it is the intention of the Executive Committee to develop a clear position on the future functioning of the NWWAC during the transition period and after the UK has left the European Union.

I look forward to your response and thank you again for the collaboration we continue to receive from the EC, which is crucial for our work.

Yours sincerely,



Emiel Brouckaert
Chairman
Executive Committee



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