



The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/

Mr E. Brouckaert
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**Subject: NWWAC request for clarification on UK membership of the
NWWAC after 31 January 2020**

Dear Mr Brouckaert,

Many thanks for your letter regarding the participation of UK members in the Advisory Council during the transition period.

In all likelihood, the Withdrawal Agreement will be ratified and the UK will leave the EU in an orderly way on 1 February 2020. The remainder of 2020 will thus be covered by the transition period under the conditions set out in the Withdrawal Agreement.

The Advisory Councils under the common fisheries policy are stakeholders-led organisations that provide the Commission and EU Member States with recommendations on fisheries management matters. On the basis of Article 127(6) of the Withdrawal Agreement, representatives from the UK industry and from UK other interest groups can remain members of the Advisory Councils during the transition period.

It is not customary for the Advisory Councils to play an active role in negotiations on international fisheries agreements, so that should rule out any conflict of interest for UK members of Advisory Councils while the negotiations are ongoing.

I trust this answers your question and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for the good work you are doing with the North Western Waters Advisory Council.

Yours sincerely,

Bernhard FRIESS
Acting Director-General