



Mr Joost Paardekooper
Head of Unit C5: Management of fisheries shared with the UK, Norway and other Coastal States
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Dun Laoghaire, 14 January 2021

Dear Mr Paardekooper,

Subject: Welcome from the NWWAC

On behalf of the members of the North Western Waters Advisory Council I would like to congratulate you on your new position as Head of Unit for Management of fisheries shared with the UK, Norway and other Coastal States in DG MARE.

As you know, 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) does present a major challenge to the engagement of stakeholders in the region.

In previous years, the NWWAC communicated its challenges to the Commission and received valued guidance regarding its functioning and role especially during the transition period. Due to the importance of this topic to the NWWAC members, a Focus Group Brexit was established in spring 2020 to develop a clear position on the functioning of this AC from 01 January 2021.

The NWWAC membership unanimously declared an interest to take a continued communication with its UK colleagues into consideration, some of whom were involved in the initial set up of this AC and many of whom have very actively participated in developing advice over the years since the NWWAC's inception. This topic in combination with the outcome of the Brexit Focus Group and other initiatives on future functioning of the ACs will be on the agenda of the next meeting of the NWWAC Executive Committee (virtually in March 2021).

We look forward to discussing the way forward for this AC following next week's virtual Inter-AC meeting and to DG MARE's attendance at the upcoming meetings of our Brexit FG and of the Executive Committee.

I look forward to our future collaboration and your support which is crucial for our work.

Yours sincerely,

Emiel Brouckaert, Chairman Executive Committee

CC: Acting Director Maja Kirchner



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