

**Personal letter from Andrew Kuyk to Guus Pastoor, Chair of MAC Excom**

*Dear Guus*

12 April 2021

**CHAIR OF WORKING GROUP 2**

We have spoken informally about the Commission's letter of 18 March to Chairs of all the Advisory Councils following the last Inter AC meeting on 18 January, specifically in relation to what is said about the participation of UK stakeholders in ACs.

As you know, my current involvement in the MAC, dating back to its formation in 2016, has only ever been as a representative of the CEP component of AIPCE-CEP and not on behalf of any UK stakeholder body or interest group.

In that capacity I have twice accepted to serve as Chair of Working Group 2, with the unanimous support of the General Assembly, most recently confirmed in January last year, after the signature of the UK's Withdrawal Agreement from the EU.

I hope and believe I have carried out that role with all due impartiality and balance, irrespective of my nomination by CEP.

Nevertheless, in the light of the Commission's comments about the appropriateness of someone representing UK interests in an EU-based consortium such as AIPCE-CEP continuing to serve as a Chair or Working Group Chair, I am willing to offer my resignation in order to help restore the principle of consensus which lies at the heart of the MAC's work, should the Executive Committee so wish – and on the understanding that this would not compromise my ability to continue to represent CEP as a delegate to the MAC, should AIPCE-CEP so decide.

In so doing, I would like to thank colleagues across the MAC for their past help and support.

We have come a long way in establishing the MAC as unique among Advisory Councils in bringing together stakeholders from the whole supply chain, including consumers and other interest groups, to ensure the continued delivery of safe, sustainable, nutritious and responsibly sourced seafood from EU and other waters to markets across Europe and beyond.

But there is much still to do and many challenges ahead in this most international of sectors.

*Yours*  
*Andrew Kuyk*  
Andrew Kuyk