



Karmenu VELLA

Member of the European Commission

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. +32 2 295 57 25
karmenu.vella@ec.europa.eu

Brussels, 03. 05. 2017
Ref. Ares(2017)1951402

Dr Ian Duncan, MEP
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels

Dear Mr Duncan,

Thank you for your letter of 24 March 2017, by way of which you query whether a State wishing to become a member of the European Union would be obliged to join the Common Fisheries Policy.

Under Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), any European State which respects the values referred to in Article 2 TEU and is committed to promoting them may apply to become a member of the Union. The European Parliament and national Parliaments shall be notified of this application. The applicant State shall address its application to the Council, which shall act unanimously after consulting the Commission and after receiving the consent of the European Parliament, which shall act by a majority of its component members. The conditions of eligibility agreed upon by the European Council shall be taken into account.

The conditions of admission and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the Union is founded, which such admission entails, shall be the subject of an agreement between the Member States and the applicant State. This agreement shall be submitted for ratification by all the contracting States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. It has to be underlined however that an opt out from an exclusive competence area as the Common Fisheries Policy goes beyond a mere adjustment to the Treaties that may be justified by the admission of a new Member State.

Yours sincerely,