

## MARTIN SCHOLTEN TO BE WUR'S 'MAN IN BRUSSELS'

**Martin Scholten is stepping down this month as director of the Animal Sciences Group for a post as advisor on European and regional cooperation.**

Having been general director of WUR's Animal Sciences Group for 12 years, Martin Scholten was ready for something new. In consultation, he and WUR President Louise Fresco came up with a new job: advisor to the Executive Board on Europe and the regions of the Netherlands. Scholten: 'It is a temporary post, which has come out of the strategic plan. WUR has been very successful in Brussels when it comes to acquisition of research projects, but we don't set the agenda at the point where research and policy intersect. I want to get involved in that.'

Scholten knows his way around Brussels: he was a member of the expert group of the Horizon 2020 innovation programme, for exam-

ple. But now he will have more time to drop in on policymakers in Brussels. 'In January I was at the directorate-general for Maritime Affairs

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and Fisheries to talk about marine policy and the green deal. The director said: WUR, help us. We are now working on an integral policy for energy, food and nature at sea. I want to share our findings with Brussels soon.'

### **AFTER BREXIT**

Scholten would also like to act jointly with the ministry of Agriculture, Nature

and Food Quality more often in Brussels. 'We've got to learn from the fiasco over pulse fishing. If you don't get Brussels on board with innovations, they can run aground. The French are smarter: they form co-productions in science and policy. We should do that more often too, with the French for instance.' Scholten also wants to look at how WUR can continue to collaborate with British researchers after Brexit and he wants to present a broad Wageningen approach to zoonoses in Brussels. He expects to spend half the week working with Brussels. He will spend the other half of his working week on familiar topics in the Netherlands: circular agriculture, nitrogen and biodiversity. I want to link up the outside world's knowledge needs with WUR's internal world: that's what I'm good at.' **RS AS**