Doc.EUROBATS.AC12.6

12th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Budapest, Hungary, 7 – 8 May 2007

Secretariat Report

Staff

Effective 1 March 2007 the part-time Administrative Assistant Christine Boye has returned to the office from her maternity leave. The other part-time Administrative Assistant, Dessislava Krueger, has requested the termination of her contract effective 1 April 2007. The Executive Secretary has accepted this request and shall take action to fill the gap in due course.

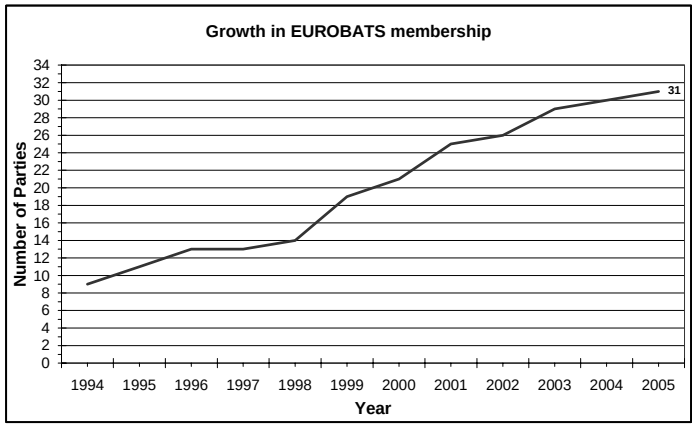
National Implementation Reports

Since MoP5 the Secretariat has received further National Implementation Reports from Finland, France (until now in French only) and Sweden. Consequently 27 out of 31 Parties have complied with Article VI of the Agreement in 2006. A new Synthesis of National Implementation Reports is under preparation and will be presented to the AC12 Meeting.

Agreement Membership

Since the 5th Session of the Meeting of Parties there have been no accessions to the Agreement. However, the growth in membership is expected to continue with the accession of several more countries. Armenia, San Marino, Serbia as well as Montenegro are in the process of acceding. The Secretariat continues to give a particular focus to the Mediterranean Region in its efforts to attract new Parties.

The Secretariat would like to reiterate its call upon Parties to assist in the recruitment of new Parties within their possibilities.



Publicity

The EUROBATS DVD is finalised now and will be made available to the larger public (in particular schools and bat groups) in the close future.

Furthermore two volumes of the EUROBATS Publication Series are under preparation. These are the “Guidelines on the Protection and Management of important Underground Habitats” and the “Guidelines on Bat Populations and Wind Turbines”.

The Secretariat will continue to promote the European Bat Night. In 2007 new posters will be printed.

Further publications and information material will depend on the availability of voluntary contributions.

The EUROBATS website has been updated on a regular basis in order to become more attractive and to provide more useful information. The Secretariat will make continuing efforts for further development.

The Secretariat can also report that the Agreement excites continuing public interest resulting in requests for TV, Radio as well as Newspaper reports and interviews.