

10th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 25 – 27 April 2005

Secretariat Report



Staff

The recruitment procedures of the Executive Secretary and the Administrative Assistants (two part-time each) are under way in line with the decisions of MoP 4. On 1 March 2005 Ayhan Polat formally entered on duty as part-time Secretary.

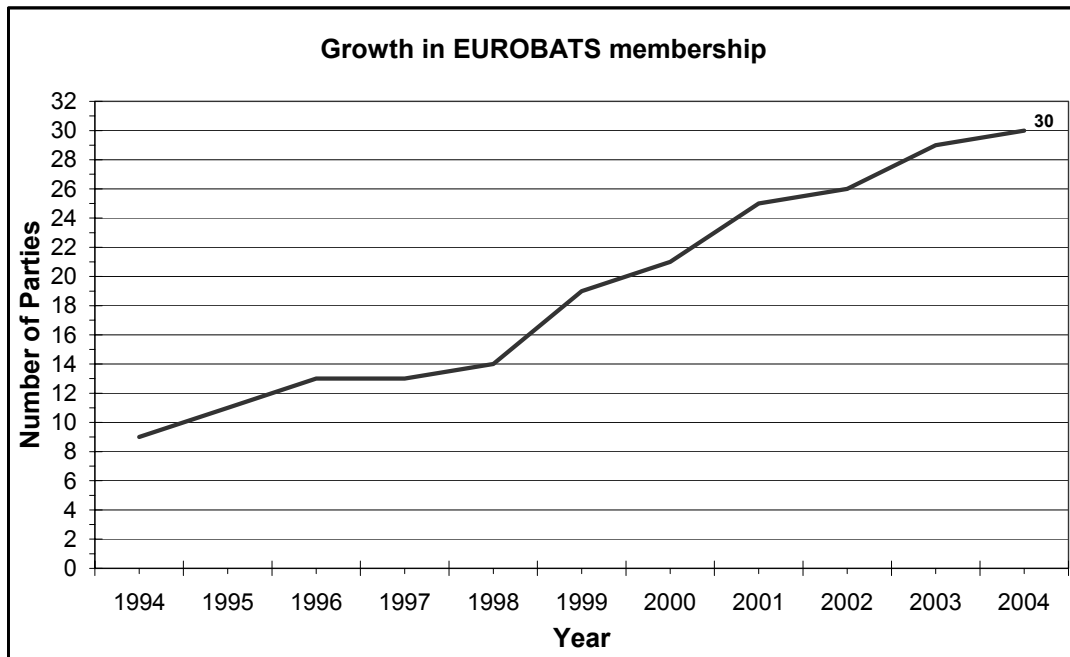
National Implementation Reports

For this 10th Meeting of the Advisory Committee, National Implementation Reports or Updates were received from Armenia, Georgia, Ireland and Portugal. A number of further reports are expected to be submitted during and after the AC10 Meeting. The Secretariat will prepare a new synthesis as soon as a sufficient number of reports will have been received.

Agreement Membership

In 2004 the Secretariat was able to welcome Estonia as new Party to the Agreement. The growth in membership is expected to continue in 2005 with the accession of several more countries. Italy as well as Serbia and 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.

Representatives of Non-Party Range States are requested to add to this report by giving an update on the status of their countries' preparations for acceding to the Agreement. These representatives will be asked during the meeting to give a short report of this nature, which may also be submitted to the Committee in writing. Should any further information exist about other states not represented at the meeting, this would also be welcomed by the Secretariat.



Publicity

The 8th European Bat Night took place in at least 30 countries with an again growing success.

The EUROBATS web-page has been fully re-designed and 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.

A new leaflet about the Agreement as well as a new issue of the Eurobat Chat has been produced. Also the Agreement exhibition has been re-designed.

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.

Special Projects

In 2004 again a substantial voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom was received for a monitoring training project in Moldova and Romania, managed by the Bat Conservation Trust.

Luxembourg has decided to grant an annual voluntary contribution.

The generous yearly voluntary contribution from Germany is to a high extend used for the participation of delegates from countries with economies in transition at this Meeting of the Advisory Committee. In 2004 it was also used for the Bat Rabies Workshop. The remaining funds were used for the production of publicity material.

Co-location of Agreement Secretariats and promotion of the Agreement

The Secretariat can report a continuing excellent working relationship with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat. The Management of the CMS Secretariat has changed in 2004. The new Executive Secretary is Robert Hepworth (United Kingdom), one of the fathers of the Agreement, the new Deputy Executive Secretary is Molay Lahcen El Kabiri (Morocco), a very experienced nature conservation specialist.

In 2004 the Secretariat was again requested to represent the Convention and the related Agreements at a number of international conferences, e.g. the Standing Committee Meeting of the Bern Convention.