

11th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

City of Luxembourg, Luxembourg, 8 – 10 May 2006

Secretariat Report



Staff

Following the decisions of MoP 4 Ms. Ayhan Polat entered on duty as part-time Secretary on 1 March 2005 at the GS4 level. Ms. Christine Boye was re-appointed as Administrative Assistant (part-time) and promoted to the GS5 level effective 1 October 2005. Ms. Dessislava Krueger entered on duty as Administrative Assistant (part-time) at the GS5 level effective 4 October 2005. The Executive Secretary was re-appointed and promoted to the P4 level effective 1 February 2006. Consequently the Secretariat can report that Resolution 4.1 is now fully implemented.

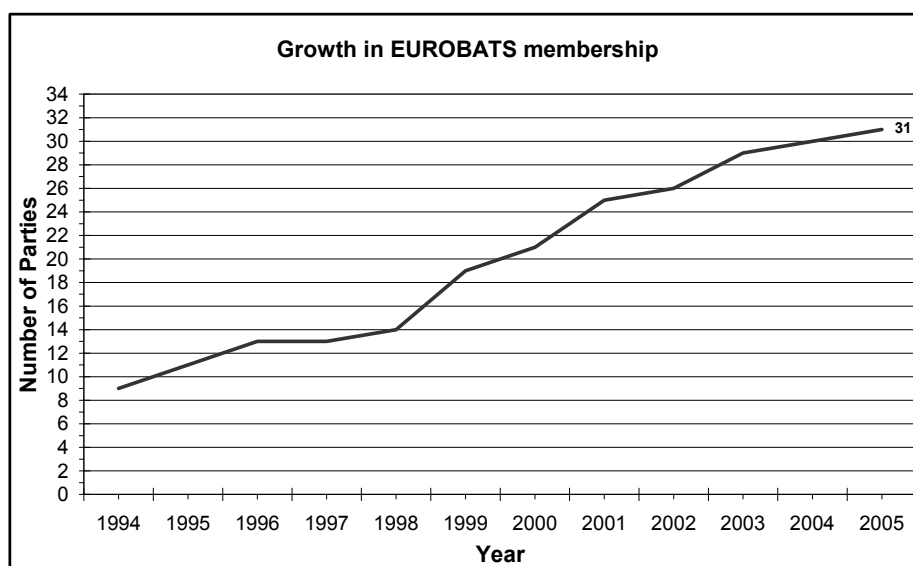
National Implementation Reports

For this 11th Meeting of the Advisory Committee, National Implementation Reports or Updates were received from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Romania, the Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom. A number of further reports are expected to be submitted before, during and after the AC11 Meeting. The Secretariat will prepare a new synthesis for MoP 5.

Agreement Membership

In 2005 the Secretariat was able to welcome Italy as new Party to the Agreement. The growth in membership is expected to continue in 2006 with the accession of several more countries. Armenia, San Marino 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 contribute 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 9th European Bat Night took place in at least 30 countries with an again growing success.

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.

Special Projects

In 2005 the United Kingdom has funded two workshops organised by the Bat Conservation Trust. One to develop a pan-European project to monitor bat populations in underground sites in the United Kingdom and a training workshop on bat detectors and monitoring methods in Slovenia.

With a further voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom and Germany a brochure on “Bats in Forests” was published in Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, FYR Macedonia, Romania as well as in Serbia and Montenegro.

In 2006 substantial voluntary contributions were provided by the United Kingdom for monitoring projects in Lithuania and the Ukraine (under preparation), the second volume of the new EUROBATS publication series (Underground Habitats, under preparation) and a meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Monitoring Methodologies organised by the Bat Conservation Trust (held in April).

Luxembourg continues to grant an annual voluntary contribution which this year is fully used for the Meeting of the Advisory Committee.

The generous yearly voluntary contribution from Germany is used for the participation of delegates from countries with economies in transition at this Meeting of the Advisory Committee and the forthcoming MoP.

Co-location of Agreement Secretariats and promotion of the Agreement

The Secretariat can report a continuing excellent working relationship with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat.

In 2005 the Secretariat was again requested to represent the Convention and the related Agreements at a number of international conferences.