

10th May 2006
AC, Luxembourg

Dear Secretariat of EUROBATS

We are writing to request you produce an additional budget estimate. We recognise the need to consider options for obtaining efficiency savings. This additional estimate should be included with the draft budget estimate to be presented in a Draft Resolution at the next MOP.

The Parties of Germany, France and UK request the Secretariat to draft an additional budget estimate including further explanation, at least 90 days before the MOP.

The additional budget proposal should take into account the following options:

- 1) Provide a budget for four years on the basis that a MOP could be held every four years. The revised budget should cover the period 2007 to 2010.
- 2) Hold the proposed Standing Committee meetings (to cover administration matters) back to back with AC meetings every second year in Bonn (budget line 3302), unless another country offers to host the meeting and covers the full costs of the secretariat (travel, accommodation and conference facilities). In the other years, an AC will only be held outside Bonn if a country volunteers and is willing to cover the costs of the conference facilities. In the MOP year there will be no standing Committee and AC meetings.
- 3) A minimum contribution per year for each Party should be set (an indicative amount of 1,000 Euros).
- 4) Do not increase staff by half a post (budget line 1303).
- 5) The reserve should not be bigger than 15% of the annual budget (bearing in mind that 45,000 Euros will be taken from the reserve this year).

Additional information required:

- 1) What are the actual costs of holding an AC and MOP meeting to EUROBATS and what does this cover?
- 2) What is the approximate reserve at the end of 2006?
- 3) What is the budget delivering in relation to the EUROBATS programme? Produce a clearer explanation of how the secretariat delivers the aims of the Agreement. Provide an additional document to supplement the estimated budget.
- 4) The AC has agreed that an audit of the budget should take place in order to provide information on the increase in staff costs and whether the Member States were sufficiently informed of these changes during the last MOP.

From delegates of:

Germany



France



United Kingdom



Request to Secretariat by Germany, France, Italy and UK to draft an additional budget estimate including further explanation, to be included as an official preparatory document in the respective resolution, at least 90 days before the MOP.

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