



## 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Stockholm, Sweden, 19 – 21 April 1999

### Record of the Meeting

#### 1. Attendance

This is listed at Annex A to this Report.

#### 2. Opening remarks

On behalf of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) who was hosting the Meeting, Mr. Torsten Larsson welcomed the 47 delegates to the Advisory Committee and was pleased to see more participants than at any previous Meeting. The venue was the SEPA Headquarters, which had been their home since 1996.

Mr. Larsson pointed out the significance and importance of bat protection in the framework of environmental protection. Action plans were necessary as well as the knowledge and scientific research on their behaviour. He hoped for a fruitful and successful Meeting in a pleasant and informal atmosphere. He encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to discuss bat protection among friends and colleagues.

Mr. Trevor Salmon (United Kingdom), who was acting as Chairman, expressed his thanks to Mr. Larsson about providing these excellent facilities and Ms. Marie Nedinge for organising the boat trip to the Ängsö national park the previous day.

Mr. Andreas Streit (Secretariat) welcomed all the participants to the conference and was happy to see so many delegates from all over Europe. He introduced himself as the new Executive Secretary to the Agreement. He thanked Mr. Trevor Salmon and Mr. Eric Blencowe as his two predecessors in setting up the Secretariat. He also thanked the SEPA for all the effort they put into the organisation of the Meeting and the support they granted over the days before the start of the Meeting, in particular Ms. Marie Nedinge. He hoped for a smooth progress of the Meeting.

Furthermore, he thanked the governments of Germany, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom who had made special contributions to the budget, thus enabling representatives of Non-Party Range States to attend the Meeting. He outlined that 27 countries were represented.

### **3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair according to rule 5 paragraph 2 of the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee**

The Executive Secretary asked the Parties to nominate candidates for the position of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Proposed by Portugal and seconded by Ireland, Mr. Trevor Salmon was re-elected as Chairman.

Proposed by France and seconded by Germany, Mr. Peter Lina was re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Salmon expressed his thanks for the confidence the Parties gave to him and Mr. Lina.

The Chairman referred to document Inf.EUROBATS.AC4.9 as a guideline for the progress of the Meeting. He remarked on the short period of time that the Advisory Committee had to try to achieve action points agreed at the Second Session of the Meeting of Parties (MoP2). To do so would, he felt, necessitate intersessional working groups.

### **4. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Chairman introduced the agenda and suggested two clarifications. Firstly, that there would be an administrative working group, open to Parties only, to discuss budgetary matters and the future administration of the Secretariat. In addition, he suggested that there may be the need for a scientific working group to consider agenda item 12 (Bat conservation and management plan). With these comments introduced, the Committee adopted the agenda.

### **5. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure**

The Rules of Procedures were adopted.

### **6. Approval of the minutes of the previous Meeting of the Advisory Committee**

The minutes of the Meeting held in Prague 23 – 25 March 1998 were approved.

### **7. Secretariat Report**

#### **a) Budget**

The Executive Secretary drew the attention to Doc.EUROBATS.AC4.4. He thanked the German government, namely the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Federal Agency for Nature Protection (BfN) for

the ongoing support of the Secretariat in Bonn. In his thanks, he included the UN Common Premises Administration and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) for their support, contributing to excellent working conditions for the Secretariat.

The Executive Secretary furthermore informed the Committee of the staff changes that had occurred in the Secretariat. He reported that Mr. Jens Lützen continued to provide his excellent working skills to the Secretariat. He expressed his thanks to him for the work. The Executive Secretary reported that he himself had taken up his post on 1 October 1998.

The Executive Secretary also reported that the Secretariat had established an administrative database, including all contacts in Europe.

The Chairman expressed his and the Advisory Committees' thanks to the Executive Secretary and the Administrative Assistant for their continuing work.

#### b) National Report and updates to National Reports

Before the Meeting, the Secretariat had received voluntary updates of the National Reports from Portugal and the United Kingdom. The Parties and some Non-Party Range States that had not already done so, indicated that they would submit update reports soon after the Meeting. The German delegation presented a new brochure which is an illustrated compilation of their previous National Reports.

Oral and written presentations were made by Parties and Range States regarding their progress on bat conservation measures and by Range States also towards acceding to the Agreement.

The Chairman drew the attention to Resolution 7 of the MoP2 and clause 7 of the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee. He asked for the Committees' views on how best the AC could try to facilitate the dissemination of national data and activities as charged.

It was agreed that, as soon as possible, each Party and Range State should endeavour to prepare a short written and, if possible, electronic report on their progress during 1998 to implement the Agreement. It was also agreed that a similar short report covering 1999 should be prepared for the next Meeting of the Advisory Committee if the full National Reports due for the next Meeting of Parties were not available.

#### c) Agreement membership (recruitment of new Parties)

The Executive Secretary reported that there were many positive signs from Range-States expressing their intention to soon join the Agreement. He mentioned Bulgaria, Monaco and the Ukraine.

Armenia, Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania and Slovenia also declared their interest in acceding to the Agreement in the near future.

The United Kingdom reported that the Channel Islands had expressed their wish for the Agreement to become binding for their territory as well.

#### d) Publicity

The Executive Secretary referred to the changes and improvements of the homepage ([www.eurobats.org](http://www.eurobats.org)), like the search-facility allowing to search for documents containing certain keywords. He also mentioned that there has been a considerable increase of hits on the Eurobats-homepage since the end of last year.

The Committee discussed the placing of "Eurobat Chat" on the Internet only, to be downloaded and printed direct from there. The Committee, however, felt that because of some uncertainty about access to the WWW in some countries, that the Secretariat should continue to provide printed copies where necessary. The Committee asked the Secretariat to liaise with Parties and Range States to identify those who could not accept the Internet option alone, recognising the benefits this would bring in reducing printing costs to the Secretariat.

The Committee also agreed that the Secretariat should investigate placing the preparatory papers for Meetings in a secure section of the homepage for direct access by Parties and Range States, where appropriate.

The placing of National Reports and updates on the homepage was also agreed, with the placing of links to national sites where available.

The Committee heard from the Secretariat that European Bat Night (EBN) continued to grow. The dates for future EBNs were discussed, with delegates acknowledging that the best date for such an event varied from country to country. The Chairman suggested that the Secretariat send out a questionnaire to Parties and Range States to identify most suitable dates and that it liaise with him and the Vice-Chairman on the best way forward from 2000. The administrative working group instructed the Secretariat to investigate ways, including the printing of EBN publicity materials in or

by the Parties and Range States themselves, to ensure the best use of the budget provided for EBN (5000 DM pa).

## **8. Administrative matters**

a) Report on preparations for MoP 3 and on status of ratification of the amendment to the Agreement by Parties (United Kingdom)

### *Report on the preparations for the next MOP*

The Chairman, representing the United Kingdom, informed the Meeting that the 3<sup>rd</sup> MoP would be held in Bristol during the week commencing 24 July 2000. The Meeting would be held “back-to-back” with ASCOBANS’ 3<sup>rd</sup> MoP. A venue had been booked already, the Swallow Hotel. A timetable was being prepared, with it anticipated that both Agreements would meet concurrently on the Wednesday to discuss financial matters and the Secretariat location and administration. Further details would be provided nearer the time.

### *Report on the status of ratification of the amendment*

The Chairman referred to the status of ratification of the amendment. There had been no change since the third Meeting of the Advisory Committee, with only the Netherlands and the United Kingdom having ratified the amendment.

Mr. Adams (Germany) mentioned that Germany was still awaiting for the formal agreed translation of the amendment, as was France. The Chairman agreed to try to speed up the translation with the Depository.

The Executive Secretary outlined the growing importance of the amendment as countries in which this species occurs would soon become parties to the Agreement. He suggested that when Range States accede, they ratify both the Agreement and the amendment at the same time.

b) Organisational Arrangements for the Secretariat

An administrative working group of Parties reviewed the 1998 Audited Accounts (Inf.EUROBATS.AC4.3) and agreed that, subject to minor amendments, they be circulated to the co-ordinating authorities. In considering the 1999 expenditure (Doc.EUROBATS.AC4.4), it noted and thanked SEPA for providing the venue at minimal cost to the Agreement budget.

To fully consider issues in relation to the future budget of the Agreement and in particular the administration and Terms of Reference of the Secretariat the group

agreed to establish an intersessional working group, convened by the Chairman. The group will consist of Mr. Trevor Salmon (United Kingdom), Mr. Gerhard Adams (Germany) and Mr. Olivier Robinet (France). The group would work with ASCOBANS to co-ordinate the views of EUROBATS and ASCOBANS Advisory Committee in time for their consideration, as appropriate, at the 6<sup>th</sup> CMS Conference of Parties (CoP) and the Agreements' 3<sup>rd</sup> MoPs.

## **9. Consistent monitoring methodologies**

The Committee noted that, in accordance with Resolution 2 of MoP2, it was charged with reviewing intersessional progress in adopting common monitoring methodologies suggested in the Resolution. Further it was charged with refining those guidelines if necessary. An intersessional working group, convened by the Vice-Chairman and assisted by Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France) and Mr. Andriy-Taras Bashta (Ukraine), was established. It was asked to consider, in the light of Parties' and Range States' experiences, if it was necessary to refine the guidelines and, if so, to propose a method of doing so in time for MoP3. The group was asked to prepare a paper by December 1999 for consideration at the next Advisory Committee Meeting.

The Secretariat introduced Document Doc.EUROBATS.AC4.6 to suggest a means of establishing a database of monitoring activities and results as detailed in Resolution 2. The paper proposed that the Advisory Committee considered using the Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS) database for this purpose. The Committee considered that the Secretariat should examine whether GROMS or any other alternative meets the requirements of such a database and possible alternatives including those of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the European Environmental Agency (EEA). To assist this process the Committee agreed to establish an intersessional working group, convened by Dr. Steve Gibson (United Kingdom), together with Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France). The group was charged with: revisiting both the wording and intention of Resolution 2; considering ways in which the Secretariat may meet the database requirement of the Resolution; considering at what geographic scale monitoring information should be held by the Secretariat; considering how data quality can be maintained and double counting of migratory species avoided; suggesting ways in which the database can assist Parties with the collection and analysis of monitoring data; examine whether GROMS or any other alternative meets the requirements of Resolution 2; and, consider ways in which it could be used to benefit the Agreement more broadly. The group was asked

to prepare a paper by December 1999 for consideration at the next Advisory Committee Meeting.

#### **10. Transboundary programme for bat conservation - Species**

The Chairman referred to Resolution 3, MoP2, which requested Parties consider means of establishing actions plans for *Pipistrellus nathusii* and *Myotis dasycneme*.

Ms. Sandra Jen (Bern Convention) introduced the draft action plans (Inf.EUROBATS.AC4.6 and 7) regarding *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Myotis dasycneme* respectively, initiated by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention. She gave credit to the authors and expressed the hope that the EUROBATS Advisory Committee could assist in the development of the plans with the aim of presenting finalised plans to the 1999 Standing Committee Meeting.

Mr. Gerhard Adams (Germany) pointed out that the plans were also being considered by the EU Habitats Scientific Committee, and that a deadline for comments there was 15 May 1999.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed by consensus that the plans needed to be refined to aggregate and prioritise actions at a European level, at the national level where appropriate, and if relevant to identify research needs. Parties and Range states were asked to pass their comments directly to Mr. Tony Hutson (Bat Conservation Trust) in order to enable actions to be presented as an Executive Summary supported by the detailed text of the current plans. This suggestion was agreed by the delegates and the Committee expressed the hope that the plans could be revised in time to be re-presented to the 1999 Bern Convention Standing Committee Meeting.

Germany announced that it proposed to fund a project, up to 40,000 DM (Inf.EUROBATS.AC4.15). The project aimed to establish nine training workshops in Central and Eastern European countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Macedonia FYR, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine) to raise awareness of, and develop skills in, the use of bat detectors for the study of *Pipistrellus nathusii*, *Myotis dasycneme* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*. He sought confirmation that the project would be of value to those states. The Committee welcomed the proposal and agreed that points of detail be given to Mr. Peter Boye (Germany) after the Meeting.

## 11. Transboundary programmes - Habitats

The Chairman referred to the tasks allocated to the Parties and the Advisory Committee in Parts 1 and 2 of Resolution 4, MoP2. He suggested that in view of the reduced timescale between the MoPs, the Committee regard completing the underground habitats aspect as an achievable and priority task.

With regards to Part 1 (underground habitats) Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom) presented a suggested way forward in Inf.EUROBATS.AC4.12. He suggested that it was important that a mechanism be developed to identify sites of importance within the geographic scope of the Agreement. Secondly, the means of protecting such sites should be evaluated. He further suggested that when the information was available the Secretariat considered placing it on GROMS.

The Committee agreed to establish an intersessional working group, convened by Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom), together with Ms. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Mr Zoltán Biharí (Hungary) and Dr. Matti Masing (Estonia). The group was charged with considering means to facilitate Parties compiling data to meet steps 1 and 2 of the Resolution. It should consider developing criteria to identify sites of European importance, and make recommendations about the summary data to be collected. It should note the work being undertaken to develop the Bern Convention's Emerald network. The group was asked to prepare a paper by December 1999, for consideration at the next Advisory Committee Meeting.

Dr. Steve Gibson (United Kingdom) introduced Inf.EUROBATS.AC4.13 and considered how the Parties could best take forward the steps identified in Part 2 of the Resolution (Forests). He suggested that an intersessional working group undertook two tasks. First to work with the Secretariat to assist and remind Parties to include the information required by Steps 1 and 2 in their national implementation reports to MoP3. Secondly, to draft a Resolution for MoP3 describing how the Parties could meet Steps 3 and 4 using the information from steps 1 and 2 to develop recommendations for sympathetic forest practices. The Committee agreed to establish such a group, to be convened by Mr. Darko Kovačević (Croatia), together with Dr. Johnny de Jong (Sweden) and Dr. Steve Gibson (United Kingdom), and asked that it prepare a paper by December 1999, for consideration at the next Advisory Committee Meeting.

## **12. Geographical scope of the Agreement**

The Chairman referred the Committee to the tasks allocated to it in the penultimate paragraph of Resolution 5, MoP2. The Committee agreed to set up an intersessional working group, convened by Ms. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), working together with Dr. Marcel Uhrín (Slovakia) and Ms. Teodora Ivanova (Bulgaria). The group was charged with reviewing existing data on migration routes with a view to developing a comprehensive map per species. It was asked to prepare a paper by December 1999 for consideration at the next Advisory Committee Meeting.

## **13. Management and conservation plan**

The Chairman referred the Committee to Resolution 8, MoP2. He asked for views on how best to take forward the priorities indicated by MoP2. The Committee refined the eight tasks suggested there to four on the basis of their importance and achievability in the time available before the 3<sup>rd</sup> MoP.

The Committee agreed to establish an intersessional working group, convened by the Vice-Chairman. The terms of reference for the group are attached at Annex C. The group was asked to prepare papers by December 1999 for consideration at the next Advisory Committee Meeting.

## **14. Projects Proposals by Range States**

Mr. Tony Hutson (BCT) informed the Committee of a project being considered in the UK for EU funding. The project would consider the repercussions of agricultural practice on biodiversity. It would involve five or six countries over a period of approx. three years. It was intended to get underway this year.

Dr. Matti Masing (Estonia) presented the idea of establishing an European Bat Conservation Research Network with Bat Research Information Centres in each country and a Headquarter for the European Network (Inf.EUROBATS.AC4.17). After discussion it was agreed that this interesting project proposal would require more detailed elaboration as a follow up to the Meeting.

Dr. Rumiana Pandurska (Bulgaria) presented a research project about transregional relations between the bat faunas of the countries along the black sea coast and conservation of bat diversity. The project aims to investigate bat species diversity, to locate the important bat roosts and to explain the functional relations of different species in that area. Taxonomic, faunistic and karyological identifications of the bat species in that region as well as mapping of nursery and hibernation sites would be

included. The status and the hibernation behaviour of the detected species would also be observed. An unique methodology for the establishment of seasonal migrations and transfer of parasites would be developed. Funding for this project was being sought.

Ms. Teodora Ivanova (Bulgaria) presented the Central European Miniopterus Protection Programme which is an initiative of the Hungarian Bat Conservation Foundation and involves participants from Bulgaria, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Former Republic of Yugoslavia and Hungary. This programme had been initiated to meet the significant decline in the size and the distribution of *Miniopterus schreibersii* which had been detected during the past decades. Presently additional funding was being sought to ensure the future progress of this project. The Secretariat was asked to assist in identifying appropriate sources of funding for both project proposals from Bulgaria.

## **15. Any other business**

Mr. Darko Kovačič (Croatia) invited the Advisory Committee to hold its next Meeting in the year 2000 in Croatia. This invitation was gratefully accepted.

Ms. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal) invited the Advisory Committee to her country for its Meeting in 2001.

Prof. Eduard Yavrouyan (Armenia) invited the Advisory Committee to Armenia for the year 2003.

Mr. Gerhard Adams (Germany) invited all participants to the celebrations of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bonn Convention (CMS) on 23 June 1999.

The Executive Secretary took the occasion to encourage all participants to send the papers they had presented as well as updates of National Reports in electronic format in order to publish them on the EUROBATS homepage. He also asked for pictures of bats to be published there.

## **16. Close of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked the SEPA and in particular Ms. Marie Nedinge for the arrangements for the Meeting. He also thanked the Committee for their perseverance and their useful interventions and the Secretariat for the logistical arrangements. The Chairman then closed the Meeting at 12.15 p.m.

**Annexes:**

AC4.REPORT.AnnexA: List of Participants

AC4.REPORT.AnnexB: List of the intersessional working groups

AC4.REPORT.AnnexC: Terms of Reference for the intersessional working group(s) for the Bat Management and Conservation Plan Actions

AC4.REPORT.AnnexD: Terms of Reference for the intersessional working group regarding the establishment of a Database of monitoring activities and results (Res. 2, MoP2)



## 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

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4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Stockholm, Sweden, 19 – 21 April 1999

## Intersessional Working Groups

<b>Group</b>	<b>Members</b>
Administration	Mr. Trevor Salmon (United Kingdom)* Mr. Olivier Robinet (France) Mr. Gerhard Adams (Germany)
Consistent Monitoring Methodologies	Mr. Peter Lina (Netherlands)* Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France) Mr. Andriy-Taras Bashta (Ukraine)
Database of Monitoring Results	Dr. Steve Gibson (United Kingdom)* Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France)
Transboundary programme – habitats: Data compilation	Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom)* Mr. Zoltán Bihari Ms. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal) Dr. Matti Masing (Estonia)
Transboundary programme – habitats: Forest practices	Mr. Darko Kovačić (Croatia)* Dr. Johnny de Jong (Sweden) Dr. Steve Gibson (United Kingdom)
Geographical scope of the Agreement: Migration routes	Ms. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal)* Dr. Marcel Uhrin (Slovakia) Ms. Teodora Ivanova (Bulgaria)
Bat Conservation and Management Plan	Co-ordinator: Mr. Peter Lina (Netherlands)
Actions 8 and 17	Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France)* Prof. Ingemar Ahlén (Action 8)(Sweden) Jaques Pir (Luxembourg)
Action 20	Dr. Stéphane Aulagnier (France)* Ms. Eva Suchomelova (Czech Republic)
Action 22	Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom)* Mr. Peter Lina (Netherlands) Mr. Gunnârs Pètersons

\* Convener



## 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Stockholm, Sweden, 19 – 21 April 1999

### Terms of Reference for Intersessional Working Group(s) for the Management and Conservation Plan Actions

#### **Action 8:** Research priorities list

The working group is requested to:

Using the following list of priority species: *Rhinolophus euryale*, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Rhinolophus mehelyi*, *Myotis bechsteinii*, *Myotis capaccinii*, *Myotis emarginatus*, *Myotis dasycneme*, *Nyctalus lasiopterus*, *Pipistrellus nathusii*, *Barbastella barbastellus*, *Miniopterus schreibersii*, *Tadarida teniotis*.

- Prepare a questionnaire to ask each Party and Range State what their most urgent research and knowledge needs are for each species and
- Where these research projects should be carried out
- Analyse the results and prepare a draft resolution for discussion at the next Advisory Committee Meeting.

#### **Action 17:** Foraging habitats and land management

The working group is requested to:

- Assist the Secretariat to collect, analyse and summarise existing information about advice given to land managers on the management of foraging habitats
- Categorise the information by common themes and make it available to Parties and Range States.

#### **Action 20:** Building industry awareness

The working group is requested to:

- Assist the Secretariat with the collection of examples of publications and projects from each country and indications of successful practice

- Order and catalogue the material and provide specialist advice to the Secretariat on how information should be distributed.

**Action 22:** Timber treatment pesticides

The working group is requested to:

Using a questionnaire or existing information to summarise information about remedial timber treatment practices across Europe, including information about

- The size of the industry
- The types of treatment used to control wood-boring insects and fungi
- The pesticides used
- The process by which new chemicals are approved and whether bats are taken into account in the process.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Stockholm, Sweden, 19 – 21 April 1999

### Terms of Reference for the Intersessional Working Group regarding the establishment of a database of monitoring activities and results (Res. 2, MoP2)

The Working Group is requested to:

- Re-examine both the working and intention of Resolution 2.
- Consider ways in which the Secretariat may meet the database requirement of the Resolution.
- Consider at what geographic scale monitoring information should be held by the Secretariat.
- Consider how data quality can be maintained and double-counting of migratory species avoided.
- Suggest ways in which the database can assist Parties in with the collection and analysis of monitoring data.
- Examine whether GROMS meets the requirements of Resolution 2 and consider ways it could be used to benefit the Agreement.