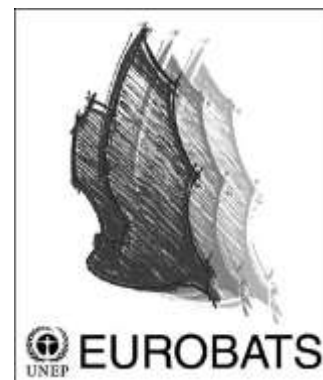


14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee  
23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tallinn, Estonia, 14 – 17 May 2018

Draft Resolution 8.13

Insect Decline as a Threat to Bat Populations in Europe



*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter "the Agreement"),*

*Recalling* paragraph 8 of Article III of the Agreement text (“Each Party shall, wherever appropriate, consider the potential effects of pesticides on bats when assessing pesticides for use”);

*Recalling* the EU Directive (2009/128/EC) which aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment;

*Pointing to* the Resolution 7.8 Conservation and management of critical feeding areas and commuting routes and its guidelines (Publication series no xy);

*Referring to* the Resolution 6.15 Impact on Bat Populations of the Use of Antiparasitic Drugs for Livestock and its Annex 1 regarding management recommendations;

*Concerned* about the published dramatic loss of insect biomass up to 70 % in open land in various regions in Europe;

*Noting* the adverse effects of the decline of insect diversity and abundance on bat populations through a decrease in food resources;

*Recognising* that the use of insecticides leads to direct and indirect impacts on bat populations;

*Acknowledging* that there are not sufficient scientific data available on the extent of these impacts,

*Urges Parties and Range States to*

1. encourage scientific research on the impact of the insect decline on bat populations;
2. clarify main factors causing the established loss of insect biomass;
3. avoid the use of insecticides particularly problematic to bats and their food resources in and around important areas for bat conservation;
4. ensure that bats are being considered in pesticide risk assessments;
5. in general, take the precautionary approach with respect to the use of pesticides;
6. promote awareness of the multiple ecological services provided by bats, especially for the agricultural sector, and raise awareness regarding the concerns mentioned above with stakeholders, land managers and politicians.

*Requests the Advisory Committee to*

1. collect and compile relevant existing information on the current insect decline, and to assess its potential effects on bat populations in Europe;
2. encourage and initiate scientific research on this topic and
3. evaluate the necessity to install an IWG on this topic.