

9th Meeting of the Standing Committee
19th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Heraklion, Greece, 7 – 10 April 2014

Draft Resolution 7.13
Bats and Building Insulation



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

Recalling EUROBATS Agreement Article III, especially paragraphs

Noting, that bat colonies are seriously endangered by insulation programmes which do not take adequate account of the presence of bat roosts and that some EU financed schemes to promote the installation of insulation are in conflict with policies to conserve bats;

Further noting, that bats use buildings as breeding, swarming, hibernation and transient roosts;

Recalling Resolution 5.7 Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance, which recommends to ensure that overground roosts are managed in accordance with national nature conservation legislation and taking note of any guidelines adopted by the EUROBATS Agreement;

Recalling the Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage, which obliges EU members to take measures to prevent, mitigate and compensate significant damages to protected species;

Recalling the Kyoto Protocol to reduce CO₂ emissions in context of combatting climate change, that buildings are responsible for more than one third of total energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions in society, both in developed and developing countries (<http://www.unep.org/sbci/pdfs/BuildingsandCDMreporte-version.pdf>) hence insulation is important;

Recognising that large-scale insulation of buildings causes fatalities and loss of roosts, which influence bat populations;

Urges Parties and Non-Party Range states to:

1. Ensure that no insulation project is permitted that does not make provision to avoid bat mortality by implementing appropriate mitigation and compensation for roost loss;
2. Resolve the conflict between insulation regulations and bat conservation;
3. Adopt the procedure of preconstruction assessment of the insulation programs on bats;
4. Take into account that the cumulative impact of fatalities and loss of bat roosts in buildings can lead to detrimental effects on bat populations;

Recommends Parties and Non-Party Range states to:

1. Collect and share information on best practises on surveys, avoidance of fatalities and roost loss, as well as effective mitigation and compensation measures;
2. Promote the need to take account of bats when undertaking insulation programmes;
3. Provide appropriate training and informational material for insulation companies about bats in buildings;

Requests the Bats and insulation IWG to develop guidelines on best practice in taking account of bats in insulation projects.