

4th Meeting of the Standing Committee
15th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Bonn, Germany, 3 – 6 May 2010



Report of the Intersessional Working Group on WNS

(submitted by the convenor Prof. Paul A. Racey)

1. The convenor attended the 39th North American Symposium on Bat Research in Portland, Oregon 4-7th November 2009 to learn about the progress of WNS in North America and current research to shed light on why it is having such a devastating effect. Following this, disinfection protocols recommended for North American bat workers and cavers between visits to underground sites were included in the Eurobats website.
2. Concern heightened in Europe in February 2010 when the presence of *Geomyces destructans*, the cold adapted soil fungus associated with WNS in North America, was reported on a single individual *Myotis myotis* in Périgueux, France. Cutaneous fungi have been reported in several European countries but there have been no reports of associated mortality.
3. The convenor attended the Second International Berlin Bat Meeting, on Bat Biology and Infectious Disease, in February 2010 which included a plenary lecture on WNS by US expert David Blehert and additional lectures and posters on the subject. The decision was taken to prepare for possible publication an Action Plan for surveillance and research on fungal diseases of bats, which is tabled as an Annex to the resolution under consideration at AC15.
4. In April 2010, the convenor attended the first meeting on WNS between staff of the Bat Conservation Trust and members of the British government responsible for wildlife conservation to discuss ways of minimising the possibility of the American strain of *Geomyces destructans* reaching the UK.

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23.04.10