Record of the Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Attendance
This is listed at Annex 1 to the Record.

2. Opening remarks:
The Chair of the Standing Committee, Dr. Michel Perret, opened the Meeting and invited a representative of the host government Germany to make some opening remarks.

Dr. Christiane Paulus from the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety expressed a very warm welcome to Bonn and her delight that so many countries from all over Europe and beyond were represented. She recalled the exceptional bat conservation project that the participants had visited during the excursion and believed that this might act as catalyse for similar projects in other countries. She wished everyone interesting discussions and good results on the common goal of protecting migratory species, in particular bats.

The Chair of the Standing Committee, Dr. Michel Perret, France, thanked the German government for hosting the Meeting in such a beautiful environment. It was always a pleasure for him to come to Bonn for the Meetings of the Standing Committee, especially this year for the first joint Meeting with the Advisory Committee. He was looking forward to the four days working together and wished all participants a fruitful Meeting for a good preparation of the Sixth Session of the Meeting of Parties (MoP6).

The Chair of the Advisory Committee, Mr. Peter Lina, The Netherlands, thanked the German government for the invitation and for the excursion on Sunday. He emphasised the importance of this Meeting that was to finalise the Draft Resolutions for the next MoP. He thanked the Secretariat for the preparations and wished everyone a very successful Meeting.
The acting Deputy Executive Secretary of UNEP/CMS, Mr. Bert Lenten, welcomed the participants on behalf of CMS and transmitted best wishes and regards from Elizabeth Mrema (Executive Secretary). He also highlighted that discussions during this Meeting would be essential for a smooth MoP. In particular he referred to the draft budget which in his view was very well prepared by the Secretariat. Furthermore, he drew attention to the ongoing process on the future shape of CMS and recalled the Parties to return the questionnaires that had been circulated. He concluded with best wishes for the Meeting.

The Executive Secretary of UNEP/EUROBATS, Mr. Andreas Streit, thanked Dr. Christiane Paulus for her encouraging opening statement and the Ministry for hosting the Meeting. He was happy to welcome both administrative and scientific Focal Points as well as other experts from 38 countries, in particular Montenegro that was attending for the first time, who had come together to work on a heavy agenda. He expressed his gratitude towards the Intersessional Working Groups who had done a lot of preparatory work. He was looking forward to a fruitful and successful Meeting.

3. Adoption of the Agendas
The Agendas for the sessions of the Standing and Advisory Committees were adopted unanimously.

4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure
Sweden and Norway proposed to hold the future joint Meetings back to back instead of in parallel.

After some clarification, the Rules of Procedure for both Committees were adopted unanimously. All observers were admitted to the Meeting.

5. Summary reports by the represented Parties and Non-Party Range States as well as NGOs
Albania: During the years 2008-2010, Albania made some progress for the implementation of guidelines and resolutions in the frame of EUROBATS. Just few awareness activities for protection of endangered species and especially bats species with the students of University of Shkodra, Museum of Natural Sciences in Tirana took place. All the publication series of EUROBATS are spread in Universities of Tirana, Shkodra and Durres.
Also NGOs working in the Protection of biodiversity and protection species have been made more aware of undertaking activities for bat protection. An Action plan for the Strategy of the Biodiversity protection has been designed. In the activity plan bats species monitoring, especially bats living in caves is included.

Belgium:

Legal initiatives

- The major activity in terms of legal status and protection of bats (for all BE regions) was related to the design of species plans to reach or maintain a Favourable State of Conservation as required by the EU Habitat Directive. The species charts -on the Regional level - compare actual and recent evolution of status and distribution, but also lists pressures and possible threats and what is to be considered sufficiently numbers to guarantee a maintained or future favourable status. Species Charts were translated into Regional Targets for a Favourable State of Conservation, describing targets and where to achieve them. For most bat species, given the idea that recent trends of the populations are stable or even positive, regional targets aim to maintain the current status, but giving a more solid basis for the protection of hibernation and/or roost sites. The last step to be achieved will be a translation of Regional aims into local implementation plans, that will be endorsed by the Regional Governments.

- The Flemish Region approved a renewed Species Protection legal framework, that combines legal aspects on species and ecosystem protection that were scattered over a series of regulations and ministerial decisions. The Species Protection Law strengthens the position of species protected under the Habitat and Bird Directives.

- The Walloon Government decided to restore broadleaved forests edges around public coniferous forests. Furthermore, new legislations were adopted allowing financial support for restoration of favourable broadleaved forests edges in Natura 2000 designated sites, and for several agri-environmental schemes positive for bat conservation (unimproved pastures, reduced antiparasitic treatment, hedges management).

Research & monitoring

- Both the bat working group Plecotus of NGO Natagora as the bat working group of NGO Natuurpunt and several agents of the Administrations conduct their standardized yearly winter counts in small and larger hibernation sites in Wallonia, Flanders and Brussels. These monitoring initiatives are as always a crucial factor for following the status of species, but also contribute to the design of species protection plans and favourable state of conservation plans under the EU Habitat Directive. The
overall trend for hibernating bats is stable to positive over the last 10 years, but negative for a number of species when compared with historical data (see below).

- Bat rabies monitoring is still ongoing, under co-ordination of the National Institute for Public Health.

- A major publication was realised on the evolution over a longer time span (50 years) of bat hibernation in major underground sites in the Walloon Region. While numbers of some species (M. mystacinus/brandti; M. daubentoni, M. emarginatus) increased as compared to the 1940-ies, both species of Rhinolophus, B. barbastellus and M. myotis strongly declined in this part of their historical area. In fifty years, the diversity of hibernating bat populations has halved!

- The Walloon region, in collaboration with Natagora, is applying a R. hipposideros action plan around the relict maternity colonies.

- A very successful symposium was held on M. emarginatus (Antwerp, November 2009) which was attended by participants from all over the EUROBATS agreement area (org. VZZ, Natuurpunt, Natagora, LIFE+ and Province of Antwerp).

- The identification of areas of major interest for the conservation of bats is conducted through an Interreg project concerning the (Belgian and French) Lorraine regions.

Awareness Raising & on site protection initiatives

- The European Bat night (Natuurpunt + Agency for Nature and Forest Flanders) as always attracted a couple of thousand enthusiasts.

- Under LIFE+ the Bat Action project Agency for Nature and Forest Flanders is entering its third year of implementation. The project includes initiatives on awareness raising through leaflets and folders, site protection and restoration of small and larger hibernation sites, roost protection through contracts with several tens of town governments and church organizations on the rules of good conduct with respect to the management restoration of church attics.

- In the Province of Antwerp, the Agency for Nature and Forest supervised the restoration of attics of several churches, taking into account allowable dates with respect of bat reproduction cycles (mostly M. emarginatus)

Bulgaria: In 2009 several research and conservation projects were conducted concerning the monitoring of bats and public awareness. The new website “Conservation of bats in Bulgaria” (http://greenbalkans.org/prilepi/) was developed. The 13th Bat Night was celebrated in Sofia. With the help of a professional artist a 45 minute theatrical production of Eva Bechstein’s “The night of the bats” was performed.

Croatia: According to the new Ordinance on Proclamation of Wild Taxa as Protected and Strictly Protected (OG 99/09) from 2009, all 35 bat species recorded in Croatia are strictly protected.

Based on the Regulation on Proclamation of the Ecological Network (OG 109/07), national Ecological Network was proclaimed in 2007 on 47% of land and 39% of sea territory. It includes 28 sites for which bats are the conservation objective, so guidelines for protection measures aimed at maintaining or establishing a favourable conservation status are proscribed. All speleological objects also represent an integral part of the ecological network. The Nature Impact Assessment needs to be carried through for every project that can have considerable impact on the conservation objectives and the integrity of the Ecological Network.

Croatia is in the process of defining the NATURA 2000 Proposal. State Institute for Nature Protection is gathering data and coordinating research, inventory and monitoring of bats as key species in regards to the NATURA 2000 Proposal.

Based on the current data gathered by the State Institute for Nature Protection on important underground sites for bat species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, the preliminary list of important underground sites for bats in Croatia was submitted to EUROBATS. The final list will be submitted before the MoP in September, and will include other bat species and more underground sites.

In 2009 the Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate prepared the national guidelines for assessing the impact of wind turbines on bats, based on the EUROBATS guidelines and in consultation with bat experts working on wind turbines impact assessment. In December 2009 the guidelines were sent to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction to be distributed to all the companies authorised for environmental impact assessment (EIA) for wind turbines. The Ministry of Culture also requested these guidelines to be included in the general guidelines for EIA for wind turbines developed by the MEPPPC.

European Bat Night 2009 events were successfully organised in few locations in Croatia and received good media coverage. Additionally, State Institute, bat NGOs and experts did research projects, organised events, workshops and educational lectures on bats, published posters, publications and leaflets to raise awareness on bat conservation issues.
In the Czech Republic 26 bat species have been recorded, P.kuhlii only once and last record for R.ferrumequinum dated in 1979, so it was suggested to consider this species as extinct in CZ. International grant with Slovak Bat Trust and Koord. Fledermausschutz in Thuringen which is devoted to bats in buildings continued also during this year. During this year’s winter census a considerable amount of WNS was recorded in CZ (3-30% at long-term observed localities), that’s why intensive research of White Nose syndrome was started and it included both CBCT and speleologists.

Monitoring programs: Monitoring in hibernacula covers more than 700 sites, the method and timing (mid January -mid-February) follows the concept established and performed since 1969. The data are available from central database. Monitoring of maternity colonies of pSCI species, with special emphasis on monitoring of nursery colonies of NATURA 2000 species. Recent census covers 120 localities. Monitoring of bat population in feeding grounds with aid of bat-detectoring at regular transects in 10 localities in protected areas. Monitoring of bat population at swarming sites as recorded by mist-netting (actually undertaken at 9 localities at May, July and September term on each). Within the last years, the European Bat Night has become an important public awareness event in the country, now it is held in 34 localities. The total number of participants reached more than 3.400.

Recent and ongoing programs:

a) The web pages of CESON (www.ceson.org) were up-dated, new detailed pages about reconstruction and renovation of buildings;
b) Consulting center which deal with bat problematic expanded its activity;
c) Continual program of management of large breeding colonies and bat hibernacula;
d) A suggestion of methodology which concerns to wind turbines in Czech Republic was sent to Ministry of the Environment;
e) Manual of care and treatment of accepted, handicapped and injured bats was published;
f) Manual of reconstruction and renovation of buildings and bat conservation was published;
g) IBRC in August 2010 (www.conference.cz/IBRC ) and EUROBATS MoP in 2010;
h) A review of Bat fauna in Prague was finished and is available at www.ceson.org/ document/netopyri_prahy.pdf;
i) Finalisation of a book “Bat Research and Bat Protection in the Czech Republic” and a film "The Bat Is Behind Door"; it will be available at MOP EUROBATS meeting in Prague in 2010;

j) Young artists’ competition in paintings of bats announced and the paintings of children you can admire in MOP EUROBATS meeting.

Estonia: Ministry of the Environment of Estonia has started the process of renewal of the Action Plan for the Conservation Management of Bats in cooperation with experts. Emphasis in connection with the new action plan is also to renew completely the bat monitoring scheme of Estonia in near future. Problem of insufficient capacity is acknowledged and attention is paid to capacity building tasks.

During the last reporting period following projects which were carried out can be emphasised:

- Project involving surveys in old parks around manor houses as an important habitat for bats across Estonia has been continued and it will continue also in the summer of 2010. The project is providing valuable information of species richness in important habitats and of species distribution.

- A pilot project involving surveys of Tallinn flora and fauna, including also bats as a separate group, has been carried out during summer 2009 to find out species richness in urban areas. The project is planned to further continue in following years.

- A new hibernation site for bats has been discovered in Tallinn at Astangu. Hibernating species include Myotis dasycneme. Therefore Astangu tunnels have been categorized as an important hibernation site for bats in Estonia. A process of establishing a new species protection site over the area has been started. It is of special importance because it is an area under heavy real-estate development plans.

Finland highlighted three points from the time since the last AC Meeting:

- The assessing process of the conservation status of species for the new Red Data Book is coming to an end. Of the bat species occurring in Finland, two species that were earlier classified as data deficient could now be moved to the class least concern. On the other hand there are bat species with really limited occurrence areas and populations that therefore fall into one of the categories of endangered species.

- For the first time a rabid bat was found in Finland. The sick Daubenton’s bat was caught in a mist net last August in Southwestern Finland. The European bat
lyssavirus type 2 isolated from the bat was genetically almost identical with the one isolated from the late bat scientist who died of rabies in 1985 in Finland. This indicates that bat rabies may have been present in bat populations in Finland for years. Due to this finding an active sampling programme initiated already earlier got funding which enables us to sample more bats in order to gain data on the prevalence of European bat lyssaviruses in the country.

- The bat migration project started in 2008 is continuing. Co-operation within the area of the Baltic Sea has started as well; there was a meeting in Lund last November with circa 30 participants from Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia and Poland. The meeting agreed on preparing a review article of the results gained in each country so far. The aim is to start together a larger research project on migration later.

France: The main activities that have been undertaken in France since the last Advisory Committee as regard the conservation of population of European Bats as outlined in EUROBATS Agreement include:

National management and conservation measures, and regulation:

- The implementation of the second national action plan (2009-2013) for the restoration of 34 Chiroptera species populations in metropolitan France. The National action plan includes 26 actions to be applied throughout the French territory and adapted to each of the 22 regions. The priority actions comprise:

1. to continue the adjustment and physical and legal protection of important national roost sites for chiroptera.
2. to update the inventories of protected chiroptera roost sites
3. to identify and implement appropriate technical measures responding to the amendment of old mines and artificial underground sites for public safety.
4. to identify and implement a new methodology to ensure that chiroptera protection is taken into account in the construction and maintenance of infrastructures and other works of art
5. the protection of roost sites in listed buildings of cultural interest
6. the development and endorsement of national protocols for the identification and monitoring of bat populations
7. the monitoring of bat populations
8. the development of a national database.

At present the national action plan is implemented in 19 of the main regions of France. 3 regions, Charentes, Auvergne and Ile de France are expected to launch
their regional action plan in 2010. More than one thousands of voluntaries are involved in the implementation of the action plan throughout the 19 region which have implemented it in 2009.

- New regulation for bat protection in old mines and artificial underground sites. Following meetings between bat experts and the ministry of Ecology, a new piece of national regulation, « circulaire » was drafted in 2009 and officially issued and published on 25 December 2009. The new regulation instructs the « préfets », the regional representatives of the State, to take appropriate measures to ensure that the protection of bats and their habitats is taken into account when old mines or artificial underground sites are transformed or closed up for public safety.

- Development and implementation of a new methodology ensuring that the protection of bats is taken into account in the construction and the maintenance of public infrastructures and other works of art and evaluation of the efficiency of the systems put in place to reduce the impact of transport infrastructures. The Monitoring of several facilities such as underpasses and crossovers for bats has been undertaken for the last two years to measure the efficiency of these facilities for bats. The objective of this study is to develop a set of recommendations to reduce the impact of transport infrastructures on bats.

Public awareness:
- The 13th European bat night took place on 29 and 30 August 2009. This public awareness event was highly successful with more than 147 different activities organised throughout the country attracting thousands of people. The event was largely followed and covered by the French media.

- A newsletter on the progress made as regard the implementation of the National action plan and bat activities in France is prepared and distributed three time per year (in February, July, October) to 1000 recipients (volunteers, local authorities, NGOs, industries, etc.). See FCEN website: http://www.enf-conservatoires.org/

Network development:
- Creation of a new Chiroptera group in French Guyana.
- A new bat conservation NGO was created early 2009 in New Caledonia.

Publication:
- Publication of the book « les chauves souris de France, Belgique, Luxembourg et Suisse » (bats from France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland) by Laurent Arthur and Michel Lemaire (Parthénope Collection editor), paperback, will be
circulated in May-June 2010 to national and local administrative bodies in France (veterinary services, environment regional offices, etc. - nearly 550 books in total) in order to enhance civil servants knowledge on bats. Copies will also be distributed to EUROBATS focal points.

Report of the French Mammal Society (SFEM): Most bat groups of the SFEM are already implementing the National Action Plan for Bats (2009-2013) at regional level. Hopefully this will help to conserving bat roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance.

The new circular letter for the safety of old mines admits now that adequate access for bats must be granted according to the species and numbers found in the mines, but the responsibility issue regarding access of bat surveyors into mine networks is still unsolved.

Each French region has been requested by the ministry to design no-go areas for wind farms. While some bat groups have been asked to develop a method for this task, others have not been consulted at all. This will lead to a great heterogeneity between regions regarding how bats will be taken into consideration. In 2009 the SFEM participated in the working groups for the new guidelines set up by the ministry for the EIA of wind farms, but the guidance document has not been published yet. The SFEM has also accepted a proposal by the wind industry to discuss a protocol for IEA, monitoring and mitigation measures that could be accepted by both parties.

Three different inter-regional seminars were organised in 2009: respectively for the Western regions, the Eastern ones and the Southern regions. Monitoring of underground and overground sites is still continuing and new important hibernation roosts are discovered every year.

Many members of the SFEM take part in the temporal monitoring of common bats which is organised by the National Museum of Natural History. This is a bat detector monitoring by car or walking transects.

Radiotracking studies on roosts and foraging habitats of Bechstein and Barbastelle bats are being carried out in different regions as part of the national action on forest species. The situation for Barbastelle bat appears to be less critical as it was thought a few years ago.

A Life Plus programme called Chiro Med has been launched in the Camargue following the discovery of a first nursery of R. ferrumequinum in this area.
The SFEPM is encouraging bat groups to follow the example of the Mammal group of Brittany and to set up refuges for bats in buildings. Concerning the passive and active surveillance of bat rabies in France, the convention between the AFSSA and the SFEPM has been renewed. Following cases of mortality from rabies in a nursery of Serotine bats in the Lorraine, active surveillance of the colony started last summer. Active surveillance is also performed on other bat species in the South-West of France. Concerning WNS: The SFEPM bat workers are sending all available information to Sébastien Puechmaille in Ireland; the localities of suspicious cases are mapped on his "chiroblog". It concerns mainly Myotis myotis but no death has been recorded yet. Germany: All German bat species are listed in the Habitats Directive (92/43 EC). In this context the following activities took place in the reporting period for the next MOP:
- 2007 a national report on implementation of this directive covered the situation of the bat species in Germany;
- 2009 a federal / Länder (federal states) monitoring programme was agreed (including bat species);
- 2010 was the start of this monitoring programme.
Beyond these European induced activities in 2009 the new German Red List of endangered vertebrates was published by the Federal Agency of Nature Protection. The Red List showed in general an improvement for bat species, which means that a considerable number of bats appeared in less threatened categories than in the publication of the last respective German Red Lists published 1994/1998.
Report of the German NGO NABU: As in each year, numerous events took place during the European Bat Night in 2009; altogether 400 different Bat Nights were conducted by NABU groups. The main event took place in Bad Segeberg with more than 1000 people attending.
Concerning the EUROBATS Guidelines on wind energy and bat populations, an internal discussion is currently taking place within the NABU about the positioning towards the benefits and drawbacks of this technology and how to take bats adequately into consideration.
During the past months a discussion has been started between the NABU bat workers and other German bat groups about the creation of an umbrella organisation called BatLife Germany. The aim is to create such an organisation by the end of this year to be able to join BatLife Europe at a later stage.
Hungary: In the last year the 5th Hungarian Bat Conservation Conference was organised. An article/collection about the ongoing research on bats was published. In several towns the European Bat Night was organised. Mainly the local zoos were the hosts.

In the last year the Hungarian National Monitoring Program became 5 years old. A summary of the results was done, and found that the population size of most of bat species is stable. The Pipistrellus kuhlii and the Hypsugo savii became more common. 20 years ago they didn’t live in Hungary, which suggest some impact of the global warming.

Several research programs are ongoing, which deal with the faunistical, ecological aspects of bats. Many Environmental Impact Assessments were made in Hungary which provided several new distribution data of bats.

Ireland: The Irish National Bat Monitoring Programme continues to go well. In 2009, 3-year reports were published, and new 3-year contracts were signed, for the Car Transect and Waterways schemes (see: www.npws.ie/en/PublicationsLiterature/IrishWildlifeManuals/). The Brown long-eared bat and lesser horseshoe bat monitoring schemes are also progressing well.

A new Red Data list of Irish mammals was published jointly by the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in 2009. No bat species received a threat category, but Myotis brandtii was listed as data deficient (there have only been two confirmed records of this species in Ireland) and Nyctalus leisleri was listed as near threatened because of the importance of the Irish population in a European context. The Red Data list can be downloaded here: www.npws.ie/en/PublicationsLiterature/RedLists/.

A new leaflet on Bats in Houses was published in 2009 and has been widely circulated. A new freephone bat helpline has also been set up by the Irish government and this has proved very popular and received significant media attention. More information on these initiatives can be read here: www.npws.ie/en/WildlifePlanningtheLaw/Batsinhouses/.

Two further bat leaflets have also been published in the last year: Bat Conservation Ireland have published a leaflet on White-nosed syndrome (www.batconservationireland.org/) and a leaflet on Bats in Forests, based on the
EUROBATS leaflet of the same name, was published jointly by NPWS and the Irish Forest Service.

Finally, NPWS has published a Threat Response Plan for vesper bats in Ireland. This document was developed in response to an ECJ case against Ireland and implementation of the plan is already underway. The plan can be downloaded here: [www.npws.ie/en/PublicationsLiterature/SpeciesActionPlans/](http://www.npws.ie/en/PublicationsLiterature/SpeciesActionPlans/).

Italy: First of all a general increase in awareness about the issue of bat protection in the country should be highlighted, also supported by nationwide initiatives such as many bat box campaigns (bat boxes sold in main supermarket companies, and even Disney comics on bat protection produced to reach children).

The Ministry is still supporting experimental work on bat rehabilitation and survival in the wild, and the results were presented at a recent international meeting in Germany. One of project aims is to develop a national centre for bat rehabilitation in the city of Rome. The objective is challenging but small yet significant steps have been moved.

National guidelines on bats and windfarms are in preparation – an independent document by the Italian Chiroptera Research Group aimed to implement EUROBATS Guidelines for the national situation. The document will hopefully be ready by the end of year and will work successfully to help the adoption of sound guidelines in such situations.

The “Bats and forestry” leaflet produced by EUROBATS has been translated into Italian and is now in press.

Italy also prepared guidelines for conservation of bats in buildings stemmed from co-operation between Ministries of Environment and Cultural Heritage; these are now being translated into English and will be soon available.

The Italian Chiroptera Research Group also produced a leaflet giving information for all relevant parts, and especially cavers, about how to detect White Nose Syndrome in bats and how to prevent its spreading. Further a passive monitoring protocol screening reported suspect cases for the occurrence of the fungus Geomyces destructans was activated.

Luxembourg:

**Monitoring:**

- Luxembourg has set up a pluriannual biodiversity monitoring program with 6 bat key species (R. ferrumequinum, M. emarginatus, M.myotis, B. barbastellus, E. serotinus, M. bechsteinii). Monitoring nursing colonies and line transects.
Research programs:
- A PhD on Bechstein's bat with development of advice of good forest practice in the Friemholz near Echternach (ecology and resource partitioning of 4 Bechstein's colonies in a broadleaved forest ecosystem of appr. 180 ha) has been assured.
- A species action plan for greater horseshoe bat did finally begin and concrete measures to protect foraging areas, commuting flight paths and roosting in the upper Moselle Valley are concerned by this program.
- Beside of this, two students will doing their MSc thesis to evaluate the landscape use parallel to the action plan.

Protection:
- The Project “Combles & Clochers” could be extended over 90 churches (of >300 churches in total) could be open for bats, several local authorities did show real interest to participate in this protection program
- The Species Action Program Rhinolophus ferrumequinum has been activated by the Ministry of Environment.
- The Protection program to secure 150 entrances for bats in the old iron mines in the South of Luxembourg could be carried on successfully together with the responsible persons from ARCELOR/MITTAL and the ITM (Inspection du Travail et des Mines).

Public awareness:
- A new 42 pages brochure on house-dwelling bats could be edited (10,000 copies) after the great success of our other brochure dealing with forest-dwelling bats. A translation for both brochures in French will be available in a few months.
- Publication on the distribution and habitat selection of Myotis bechsteinii in Luxembourg: implications for forest management and conservation.

Netherlands: The long running active and passive surveillance of lysavirus is ongoing. A project on monitoring of coronavirususes in bats was started. Management plans of Natura 2000 sites have been finalised and are being implemented. EUROBATS publications are sent to all registered batworkers, i.e. members of the Dutch Bat Workgroup. The national report over 2006-2009 is currently being written.

Further project aimed on bat conservation initiated by the Dutch government can be found in the NGO report.
Netherlands - NGO report Dutch Mammal Society:

Capacity building: Past year, the Dutch Bat Workgroup has organised the national bat conference, a national bat night, and 4 issues of their newsletters. The Dutch Mammal Society (DMS) has given courses in echolocation analysis and bat surveying and, with support from Dutch government, has given courses on bats and impact assessments.

Conservation: Management plans for the Natura2000 sites are currently being implemented. The national government has formulated rules for a minimal effort in impact assessment surveys of bats for urban and road construction. A group of bat workers launched a good practice training and licensing procedure for capturing bats, with support of DMS.

Research: Supported by the Dutch national and provincial governments, the DMS, nature conservation organisations and local mammal groups have started a national mammal atlas project. The autoecological study on Pond bats is ongoing and will be finalised in 2010. Natuurpunt and DMS organised an international minisymposium on Myotis emarginatus. Hibernacula monitoring and summer roost monitoring, commissioned by the Natura Data Authority of the ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, is ongoing – thanks to many volunteers and local bats groups. The volunteers were asked to be vigilant for signs of White Nose Syndrome. Indeed, fungi were collected and are being analysed. A research programme on the impact of artificial light on terrestrial foodwebs was started by Wageningen University, Philips Lighting, NAM, and the VOFF, with a big role for bats in this programme.

A recent positive development in Norway is the finalisation of a status report on knowledge of all species of bats. This report is expected to be published this year. This report will be the basis for further action. So far around 70 species of flora and fauna have been prioritized to have their own action plan. Most of these are threatened species. When a species is approved as a prioritized species, this inter alia implies that funding will be secured for required action. The good news is that this spring the production of a new action plan for all species of bats in Norway will be initiated. It is expected that the action plan will go on public hearing this autumn and then be approved by the authorities. According to the time plan this means that the plan can be effectuated as of 2011. The life span of this action plan is expected to be around five years, also implying that funding will be available for this period. If the action plan is approved the funding for bat research and other activities will be at a significantly higher level than hitherto. EUROBATS may also be interested in
learning that a new rescue center has been established, replacing the old one. There has also been established a visitor center in a building with a maternity roost.

Poland: The amendments to the Agreement text and title went through the ratification procedure and were signed. A considerable progress in the designation of Natura 2000 sites for bats was done. A final list of sites for bats is known. Some of them must be still officially appointed according to the results of the Biogeographical Seminar for Poland hold in March 2010, but after this designation there will be no insufficiencies regarding bats in Natura 2000 network in Poland, just for some bat species Scientific Reserves were concluded regarding summer habitats.

The agreement of the different institutions regarding WNS was arranged. A proper laboratory to examine suspicious bat carcasses was appointed. Also, the information for the bat workers and the speleological organizations was prepared. A large project on conservation of Rinolophus hipposideros is led by the NGO PTPP “pro Natura”.

The guidelines “Birds and bats in cities: building thermal modernisation friendly for animals” were prepared and printed by the NGO:PTOP “Salamandra”.

The Forest Research Institute has been appointed as the institution responsible for the implementation of the EUROBATS. Probably in May, the proper agreement will be signed and the Institute will take responsibilities regarding most of the EUROBATS implementation issues.

Portugal: An analysis of the data collected during monitoring of 49 wind farms from 2001 to 2008 was prepared. The results will be presented in the next implementation report.

Closing of mines has been accompanied in order to use bat friendly measures. European Bat Night was organised in two regions. One alternative underground roost was built, to replace one gallery that was destructed by a dam.

Romania:

1. The big challenge for the Romanian bat conservation in 2009 was the Life+ project that assures more than 1 million euro for concrete conservation actions. The project will start in 2010 and ends in 2013. The title of the project is: Bat Conservation in Padurea Craiului in Padurea Craiului, Bihor and Trascau Mountains. The project will concern 16 Natura 2000 sites and is focusing on the following conservation actions:
closing caves, modifying the tourist routs in caves, modifying the lighting condition, putting out bat boxes, warning boards, preparing the management plan for 7 bat species (M. myotis, M. oxignathus, M. bechsteini, B. barbastellus, R. ferrumequinnum, R. hipposiderus, M. schreibersii).

The main applicant of the project is the Environmental Protection Agency Bihor, the partners are Romanian Bat Protection Association and the Institute of Speology Emil Racovitza.

2. The IBat project — international project, started in 2006 about care based monitoring is still ongoing. The project is leaded in Romania by the Romanian Bat Protection Association. The project has been initiated by the Zoological Society London and Bat Conservation Trust.

3. EUROBATS project running: Two projects of the Romanian Bat Protection Association were accepted by the EUROBATS EPI. The projects will start in 2010, there are one year project. One project is about: Completion of the proposed Sites of Community Interest in Romania with chiropterological data. In the frame of the project will be introduced bat species in the standard data form of the SCIs. The other project is: Conservation aimed inventory of the Mediterranean horseshoe Bat (R.h. euryale) effectives in South Western Romania. In the frame of this project will be collecting data about roost and feeding habitats of the unexplored territories and public aware actions.

4. Other activities:
   - Organizing of the European Bat Night Events in more cities
   - placing out bat boxes
   - conservation action for bats which prefer urban areas
   - including studies about bats in the Environmental Impact Assessment

San Marino: There are no particular changes from the last report on the Republic of San Marino. The Atlas project as well as monitoring of underground habitat and awareness are ongoing. Protection of some of the underground site seems to be more problematic as news about development of some touristic new idea but a recall to the obligation of the Agreement seems to help in a better management. A complete report will be submitted for the MoP.

Slovak Republic reported activities are mainly from activities of the Slovak bat conservation society (SON). Complete activities list will be reported in the national report. The species list has no amendments – 28 species.
An education and conservation project—“Support of cooperation in European bat conservation” had first successful year of realisation in cooperation with Czech and German colleagues. Good results are in the area of minimising negative impact of building insulation on bats. Next project in LIFE+ program was prepared and submitted. Projects aims on conservation of bats and birds by reconstruction works in buildings.

White nose syndrome survey was done connected to bat hibernation monitoring. SON translated guideline for dealing with this fungal infection. Guideline was send to bat-workers, cavers and speleologist. Laboratory for analyse was found and samples are analysed. Until now more than 130 bats with fungal infection were recorded on 17 localities.

Guideline for wind turbines was prepared, now is in the process of adoption. Studies on habitat use of Myotis bechsteinii, population of Rhinolophus euryale, roost use of Nyctalus noctula and others are conducted.

Sweden has been carrying out active surveillance of Lyssa virus for the last two years with blood samples and saliva swabs along with faeces sampling. At the same time, the passive surveillance is carrying on as before since more than 20 years by now.

Last summer (2009), for the first time ever, we found bats with antibodies in the county of Skåne in the very south of Sweden. Out of a total of approximately 70 bats caught in the mist nets, about 10% of them, in two locations, tested positive for EBL 2. All of them were Myotis daubentonii. Following this, a lot of questions-and-answers, available on the web [http://www.sva.se/sv/navigera/Djurhalsa/Epizootisjukdomar/Rabies/Fladdermusrabies/], were prepared along with other web site information and press releases. The news were released in March 2010 as a joint venture from several agencies and official bodies. The interest from the Press has so far been mild, with mostly brief reports in local papers and radio stations as well as local TV stations.

A very good hibernation site with eight species present in an old military bunker near Stockholm, has been saved from demolition and is now closed and openings grilled. Furthermore, the responsible body for military buildings has agreed to, whenever possible, continue to protect their underground sites all over the country for the benefit of bats.

Sweden still have 18 species in the country. However, there are new records of species in areas were they haven't been previously found. The use of automatic
recording boxes have proved very successful in recording all species present in any given area. Since last summer, we have therefore upgraded the distributions, of among others, Barbastella barbastellus, Eptesicus serotinus, Myotis bechsteinii, Nyctalus leisleri and Pipistrellus pipistrellus.

Ukraine reported that Ukrainian bat workers and conservationists continue to work in the same directions as in previous years (gathering data on bat status and distribution, popularization of bats, giving a protection status to important bat sites, bat rehabilitation etc.).

In 2009 the bat rabies workshop named “Bats and man: conservation and epidemiological aspects” was convened in Kiev. It was carried out in the framework of the project supported by MEEDDAT, DEFRA and EUROBATS Secretariat under EPI. The project aimed to improve bat conservation in Ukraine by way of distribution of knowledge about bats and necessity of their protection through the public health authorities and development of collaboration between them and zoologists both at the level of ministries and individual experts taking into account a special status of some bat species as lyssaviruses carriers. Under this project the booklet “Bats and rabies” and the leaflet “Our neighbors bats” had been prepared and published. The publications have broadly been disseminated among the public health authorities throughout Ukraine.

At the end of 2009 the 3rd edition of the Red Data Book of Ukraine had been published. The descriptions of individual bat species were revised and new bat species were listed. As compared with previous edition of the Red Data Book (1994) where 12 bat species were listed, current edition of the book includes all bat species recorded in Ukraine thus enhancing their legal protection status.

United Kingdom and Gibraltar: Alcathoe bat Myotis alcathoe has been newly reported to occur within the UK, at sites in Sussex and Yorkshire, bringing the total number of resident species to 17. The bat was discovered by researchers from University of Leeds and University of Sheffield and a paper submitted to Acta Chiropterologica is currently under peer review.

Further information on the activities in the UK can be found on the National Reports submitted to EUROBATS.

Bat Conservation Trust:
Julia Hanmer took over from Amy Coyte as Chief Executive of BCT in September 2009.
Bats and the Built Environment: Biodiversity in zero and low carbon buildings, written by Carol Williams, BCT, was published by RIBA in 2010, with funding from Natural England. This gives practical methods to include bats and other biodiversity in new low Carbon buildings. BCT established a new PhD in collaboration with Reading University Engineering Department to investigate Breathable roofing membranes, a new material replacing bitumen underfelting as a roof lining. There have been anecdotal concerns from UK batworkers about their impact on bats, as there have been reports of bats abandoning roosts and incidents of bats becoming entangled in frayed fibres, and dying. However we have not had evidence to provide guidance or recommend the appropriate membrane as there are more than 70 types in the UK. The PhD will quantify the mechanical properties of the membranes, exposing them to tests to simulate the impact of claws on the materials (and other tests to simulate interactions with bats), and examine changes in temperature regime, light etc. The PhD will also examine how bats affect the effectiveness of the material and involve much contact with the roofing industry.

Climate change: BCT is a partner in the BICCONet (Biodiversity Impacts of Climate Change Observation Network) project (see BICCONet website), providing National Bat Monitoring Programme data to the study. This multi-partner project led by British Trust for Ornithology and Centre for Ecology and Hydrology brings together data from the UK’s leading species monitoring schemes to look for signals of climate change impact on populations of species drawn from a wide range of taxa.

iBats: BCT is a partner with ZSL in the iBats project, using car based bat monitoring surveys to gather data and build capacity for bat monitoring. The project is working with partners in Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Ukraine and Russia. A new iphone monitoring application is being developed to broaden the appeal of the survey.

Engaging people: BCT’s Count Bat project has published case studies for engaging people in bat conservation from hard to reach audiences such as ethnic minorities and people with vision or hearing impairment and Green City Bats, a bat information pack for park managers. For further information on BCT’s work see the UK report to EUROBATS and www.bats.org.uk.

The core activity of The Vincent Wildlife Trust remains the management of 40 horseshoe bat roosts in Britain and Ireland. Against a background of growth in the national populations as a whole, the populations in these reserves continue to grow at a faster rate. In addition to these population changes, we are observing increasing
numbers of greater horseshoe bats taking up residence in our lesser horseshoe bat reserves as the former species continues to expand its range to the north.

A landscape scale project for conserving the horseshoe bats around the VWT reserves started in summer 2009. Entitled ‘Habitats for Horseshoe Bats’ this project seeks to

- Gain a clearer understanding of how these species function at a landscape scale;
- Safeguard the future of our reserves and their associated roosts;
- Identify and safeguard commuting habitats and foraging areas associated with our roosts;
- Inform partner organisations for the widespread conservation of the species;
- Inform local partner organisations for the conservation of specific sites;
- Develop Area Management Plans for strategically important reserves.

To date the project has involved radio-tracking studies around key reserves in England, Wales and Ireland. Follow up studies are currently being undertaken carrying out detector surveys to confirm commuting routes and alternative day and night roosts.

In March 2010 the Trust gained funding to run a three year community based bat project in the Brecon Beacons National Park in Wales- a hot spot for lesser horseshoe bats in the UK and the location of four of the VWT bat reserves. The aims of this project are to engage with local landowners and communities, to improve foraging and commuting habitats for lesser horseshoe bats. The VWT bat reserves in the area will be a focus for education and interpretative work.

Following the publication of The Lesser Horseshoe Bat Conservation Handbook in 2008 The Trust has run a series of workshops in Britain and Ireland for staff of SNCOs, NGOs and professional ecological consultants. Many of the ideas cited in the handbook have been taken up by third parties working on lesser horseshoe bats with some very encouraging results.

Our work on barbastelles is focused on bat box schemes and bat detector surveys and we continue to survey for Bechstein’s bat.

Armenia: During the reporting period from 2008 to 2010, the researches on identification of new sites of distribution of bats were continued in all regions of Armenia. 12 new artificial and natural underground roosts (caves, grottoes, tunnels, pits) were identified, as well as 60 overground roosts of bats in buildings/constructions (houses, churches, schools, bridges, woodsheds, haylofts, sheepfold, etc.) were found.
The new species for fauna of Armenia, Myotis daubentonii, was discovered in two localities (in the grottoes roosts) in the Gegharkunik marz (province) and in the south-eastern part of the republic (Syunik marz).

The training of new bat researchers was continued. Two PhD theses on ecology and taxonomy of Chiroptera were defended. Another PhD work on neurogenesis of head brain of Rhinolophidae and Vespertilionidae was done with support of Polish scientists and will be defended at the end of May 2010. Currently, one postgraduate student and four holders of a master's degree in Armenia are studying different aspects of Chiroptera.

Several scientific publications, presentations, as well as some popular publications were made during reporting period. In co-operation with colleagues from neighboring countries “Bats Conservation Action Plan for the Caucasus” was prepared. Also in co-operation with foreign colleagues some investigations on bats parasitology, DNA-taxonomy, neurogenesis, etc., were carried out or started.

As an important issue on bats conservation can be considered publication of the new edition of Red Book of the Republic of Armenia. The Book was adopted by the Government of RA (Decision # 71-N from 29.01.2010) and includes 10 species of bats (3 species of Rhinolophidae, 6 species of Vespertilionidae and 1 of Molossidae).

Recently letter to the Minister of the Ministry of Nature Protection of RA was prepared by Prof. E. Yavruyan. This letter forced the renewal of the discussion on the possibility of the joining to the EUROBATS Agreement. Now the situation is under the study and discussion in the departments and subdivisions of the Ministry, in particular, in the Agency of the Bioressources Management. By the Agency special letter to the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia is prepared to get opinion from the scientific community.

Azerbaijan: The situation with implementation of Article 3 of the Agreement has not improved yet. Prof. Rakhmatulina was informed by MENR (Ministry of Ecology and Natural resources of Azerbaijan) that the Agreement was sent to the Foreign Ministry and is still under examination.

Scientific research on bats is performed mainly at the Institute of Zoology Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences. During recent years Azerbaijani chiropterologists studied the bat fauna of the southern slopes of the Greater Caucasus. Particular attention paid to the inhabitants of caves in ancient mountains — “bozdags” (grey hills). 8 bat species were found there and we established that Eptesicus bottae was predominant among them. In the anthropogenic and nature landscapes from 17 noted species
Pipistrellus pipistrellus, P. kuhlii and Eptesicus bottae consist the basis of the bat population (accordingly nearly 10-5 specimen per hectare), M. mystacinus and E. serotinus - 1 specimen per ha, R. hipposideros, R. ferrumequinum, M. blythii, and M. emarginatus – less than 1 sp. per ha. Other species are rare. All Rhinolophus species, M. blythii, M. emarginatus and B. leucomelas are rare and vulnerable species. These species have been recommended for inclusion into the second edition of Red Book of Azerbaijan.

Together with the U.S. researcher Prof. John W. Bickham (Director Environmental Center at the Purdue University) we work on proposal of “Myotis mystacinus” group taxonomy identification in Azerbaijan. Based on revision of various collection materials and own field investigations three new species of Myotis genus for Azerbaijan were revealed which are Daubenton’s bat (Myotis daubentoni Kuhl, 1818), steppe or golden bat (M. aurascens Kuzjakin, 1935), and Brandt’s bat (M. brandtii Eversmann, 1845).

Brief essays on 11 bat species (Rhinolophus ferrumequinum, R.euryale, R.mehelyi, Myotis blythii, M.emarginatus, M.bechsteinii, Barbastella leucomelas, B. barbastellus, Miniopterus schreibersii, Tadarida teniotis) were prepared within the scope of the second edition of the Red book of Azerbaijan.

Together with “Ecosfera” NGO the “European Bat Night” event was organised successfully. Posters on «European Bat Night», as well as the protected and rare mammals (including bats), the popular book “Flying mammals of Azerbaijan” have been distributed in various regions of Republic.

Active collaboration and work with adjacent countries is supported. “The conservation Action Plan for the Caucasus” and the “Azerbaijan National Action Plan” for the protection of 11 bat species (Rhinolophus ferrumequinum, R.euryale, R.mehelyi, Myotis blythii, M.emarginatus, M.bechsteinii, Barbastella barbastellus, B. leucomelas, Miniopterus schreibersii, Tadarida teniotis) and their key habitats have been presented to the different government and non-government organisations.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has somewhat improved compared to the last year. Speleologists and a group of bat workers at the Faculty of biology in Sarajevo have shown interest in bats, as well as a group from Banja Luka. The book about bats in Bosnia and Herzegovina prepared Maja Zagmajster, Branko Karapandza, Milan Paunovic and Jasminko Mulaomerovic hasn’t been printed yet. There are still 28 species of bats recorded in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Regarding the Agreement, some developments have been noticed there as well. Representatives from the country’s ministry of foreign trade and economic relations in which department for environment protection operates have met with the Executive Secretary of UNEP/EUROBATS in the end of 2009 (in Berne) and agreed on the subsequent steps and that the activities of agreement ratification will begin this year. It is hoped these activities will be more successful.

In 2009, the following steps were taken towards bat research and conservation in Greece:

- The Red Data Book of Threatened Animals of Greece was updated and published by the Hellenic Zoological Society and WWF Greece (end of 2009), 17 years after its first edition. Among the 35 bat species reported from Greece, six were classified as “Endangered”, two as “Vulnerable” and eight as “Near Threatened”. Eleven species were classified as “Data Deficient” due to lack of knowledge and recent changes in their systematic status (e.g. genus Plecotus). Research on species distribution and population size may change their classification, but a web data base will be developed in the near future, in order to centralize new information and provide an updated picture of the conservation status of all animal taxa.

- A Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change was established for the first time in Greece by the new government in autumn 2009, replacing the previous Ministry of Environment and Urban Affairs. Despite being in contact with environmental NGOs more closely than the previous one, it aims to promote the massive installation of industrial wind farms, even within sensitive protected natural areas. This is particularly worrying given that it has not set any clear-cut guidelines for consideration of the impacts on bats and wildlife in general and that no management plans exist for most protected areas in Greece. We hope that a Land-planning Scheme will follow the new law on the “Speedup of the Development of Renewable Energy Sources”, providing the opportunity to put pressure to consider impacts on bats. Actually, the first data concerning bat casualties in wind farms were collected in NE Greece, in 2009. In total, 79 dead bats were found (75 between 5 August and 17 November), mainly belonging to Nyctalus leisleri, Hypsugo savii, Pipistrellus pipistrellus and Pipistrellus nathusii; other species found were Nyctalus noctula, Myotis mystacinus, Vespertilio murinus and Pipistrellus pygmaeus.

- Recently, a letter to the Ministry of the Environment was sent by Greek bat specialists and other biologists. In this letter, the urgent need for protecting bats in
Greece in accordance with the Habitats Directive was stressed, as well as the importance of joining EUROBATS.

- Research in NE Greece, published in 2008 and 2009, provided valuable information on the roosting habits, population structure and foraging ecology of Myotis capaccinii, as well as on echolocation sounds of a number of different species, that may be used for monitoring and conservation purposes. Additionally, research conducted in Crete in the past two years revealed the foraging habitat preferences of Cretan bats, including the newly described Pipistrellus hanaki, and summarized the existing knowledge on the refugia of the island’s species. This information can be used for designing bat-conservation strategies focused on the protection of main roosting and foraging sites.

Israel:

Monitoring programs: Natural surveys in the northern part of Israel were continued that begun in the 80th. In these surveys, the number of bats emerging from the most important caves and their species composition were recorded. In addition, bats were captured at rich foraging areas.

A special survey in the frame of the Biodiversity of Israel was conducted. In this frame the echolocation calls of bats were monitored and bats were captured for genetic identification. The survey is done all over the country from Eilat in the south to upper Galilee in the north during 4 seasons.

Focal surveys in three caves were carried out that are the home for several species of bats: the number of bats that emerge from the caves and their species composition along the year were recorded.

Also surveys on bats in areas that may be devoted for wind farms were conducted.

Roost management: Maternity roosts that were discovered four years ago in northern part of Israel are protected. These roosts are the home for eight species of bats that roost in large numbers. They were made friendlier for the bats by creating hanging areas on the ceiling of the roosts and closing them to possible visits by unwanted guests.

Public work: Lecturing and organising field tours on bats to the public. Open day on bat research and conservation organised by the Department of Zoology at Tel Aviv University.

Research: An academic course and workshop on biology of desert bats was organised. The course was open to third and graduated students from different countries and it focused on echolocation and conservation of bats. Research is
carried by several graduate students on different topics of bat research such as ecology of bats and physiology of torpor.

**Jordan:** Over the past year, several activities were undertaken in bat research and conservation.

**Bat Research:** three excursions were carried out indifferent parts of the country using bat detectors. These efforts resulted in recording 2 additional records for the bat fauna of Jordan (Barbastella leucomelas and Myotis blythii). We also have additional records for over 15 species based on bat detectors or by observations. Data base for the bats of Jordan is under preparation and it is anticipated that it will completed this coming summer. A webpage will include all the updated information on bats of Jordan.

**Research Cooperation:** Regional cooperation was established between Jordan, Yemen, Syria and Turkey in bat research. In addition, we established international cooperation with Czech Republic (Dr. P. Benda and his co-workers) and Slovenia (Dr. Boris Krystufek).

**Workshops:** In July 2009, a workshop on biodiversity and conservation was held and organised by Z. Amr with audience from various governmental and non-governmental organizations. Several issues on bat conservations were addressed.

**Montenegro** was represented for the first time at the EUROBATS 4th Meeting of the Standing Committee and 15th Meeting of the Advisory Committee as an independent country. Research and data on bats in Montenegro are very scarce. There are 26 species recorded so far, but with a large diversity of habitats, climate, and a lot of suitable roosting sites, at least several more species are expected to be present. All bat species are protected by law. Bat workers from National Parks, National History Museum and NGO for Nature Research and Conservation “Plecotus” are currently preparing a paper with overview of bat species in Montenegro. It will include both all available literature data, as well a lot of unpublished data collected by authors and colleagues from Serbia and Slovenia, with whom a very successful cooperation exist. Some equipment has been purchased, that enable bat workers in Montenegro to conduct more quality field research now, but governmental support lacks. Montenegro has up to now ratified following conventions, regarding protection of bats:

CMS, CBD, CITES Convention, Ramsar Convention, UN Framework Convention of Climate Change and The Kyoto protocol. Responsible Ministry is preparing ratification of The EUROBATS Agreement by the end of the year 2010.
Serbia: The new Law on Protection of Nature, fully harmonized with relevant international conventions that Serbia ratified as well as with EU Habitat Directive, has passed on 19 May 2009. It has fully taken effect since 5 February 2010 when Regulation on Declaration and Protection of Strictly Protected and Protected Species of Wild Plants, Animals and Fungi under that Law has passed. 28 bat species (all of the bat species of Serbia except for M. alcathoe that has been discovered in Serbia recently earlier) has been listed in Annex I of the Regulation, as strictly protected species.

After the last revision, 29 bat species are considered to be recorded in Serbia so far, as Myotis aurascens has not proven to be a member of Serbian bat fauna. Although the presence of this species in Serbia can't be completely ruled out, since its recent discovery in Bulgaria, recent genetic analyses have proven that all the specimens previously identified as Myotis aurascens, actually belong to M. mystacinus, most likely to Balkan form M. m. bulgaricus, as suggested by Dietz et al. Typical M. m. mystacinus is also recorded in Serbia and it seems to be the less common and less abundant than M. m. bulgaricus, at least in areas south from Sava and Danube rivers, where the two forms usually occur together.

First systematic research of “Distribution of bats infestation by EBLV in Serbia” by Pasteur Institute, Novi Sad, and Natural History Museum, Belgrade, financed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water resources of Serbia, has finished. As presented at „2nd International Berlin Bat Meeting“ this February, all of the 311 bat specimens sampled for blood and saliva all over the country, as well as 82 previously collected brain samples, proven negative for presence of lyssaviruses.

„Bats and environmental impact assessment: tools for implementation of the European Habitat Directive and EUROBATS agreement in Serbia“, a very important project for bat conservation, has started by Wildlife Conservation Society Mustela and Dutch Mammal Society, financed by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and supported by the Serbian Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and Natural History Museum, Belgrade.

Syria:
Over the past year, extensive field work was conducted on the bats of Palmyra area. A large population of Asellia tridens was located in the area. Also, visits for caves known to harbour large populations of the Egyptian Fruit Bats were explored. At least 6 caves along the Orontis Valey are recognised as important Bat Cave Areas.
Current activities include mapping of the Bats of Syria, and develop a programme for bat conservation awareness.

Further research activities require acquisition of bat detectors, which bat researches in Syria are looking for support.

Arabic Translation of the Bats and forestry leaflet is in process in cooperation with Jordan.

The most important development for Turkey since the last EUROBATS Meeting is unfortunately a negative one, although it had started out with positive intentions. In 2008, as a dam to be constructed in western Turkey, near the district of Havran was going to flood a cave holding the second largest nursery colony of bats in Turkey (five species, approximately 20,000 individuals), an artificial roost was constructed above the reservoir water level as an alternative roost. As of November 2009, the bats had not started using this artificial roost, and partly due to the pressure from villagers to start the retention of water in the dam reservoir, bats were 'evacuated' from their natural cave by the Turkish Waterworks, via placement of a wooden door at its entrance, after bats went out for foraging at night. Although the bats used the artificial roost initially, a survey in January 2010 showed the complete absence of bats in it. As no bats were banded by the Turkish Waterworks, and the natural cave is now completely flooded, the fate of the evacuated bats is a mystery. Currently an NGO, the Nature Society based in Ankara, is in the process of taking the issue to the court, for the release of water from the reservoir, to make the natural roost accessible for bats again. In light of this development, currently there is an initiative to prioritize roosts, especially caves, for their conservation. After surveys to be undertaken this year, the most important roosts will be officially registered to the Ministry of Environment, in an attempt to pre-emptively protect important bat roosts from development related threats.

6. Secretariat report – Part I:

The Executive Secretary referred to the written report and only commented orally on the following issues:

Staffing situation: He sincerely regretted to have to inform the Meeting that Christine Boye, Administrative Assistant for ten years, would leave the Secretariat during summer due to a move of her family. Efforts would be made for a speedy replacement. However, the Secretariat would lose one of its most experienced staff members, and filling this gap would certainly not be easy.
National Reports: The Executive Secretary recalled that mandatory National Implementation Reports were due for the upcoming MoP with deadline on 23 June 2010. However, some voluntary updates had also been received for this Meeting.

Agreement membership (recruitment of new Parties): It was reported that Cyprus was already in an advanced stage of the accession procedure and that Spain had expressed its strong commitment to joining the Agreement soon. Other Range States were encouraged to enhance their efforts for accession.

Ongoing projects: The Executive Secretary referred to Inf.EUROBATS.StC4-AC15.5 listing the 2009/10 activities of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI). He thanked both the donors and the project partners who made this impressive success possible.

Publicity: It was reported that the EUROBATS Publication Series as well as special leaflets had become a true success story with the fifth volume having already been launched for this Meeting. The large and continuously growing number of orders and the regular need for reprints were speaking for themselves.

7. Report on the preparations for the 6th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Ms. Libuse Vlasakova, Czech Republic, gave a presentation on the preparations for the MoP6. All the logistics as well as the beautiful excursion and post-conference field trip had already been prepared.

8. Intersessional Working Groups and ad hoc Working Groups

Most reports had already been submitted in writing. Dr. Tony Mitchell-Jones did a presentation on the progress achieved by the IWG on Transboundary Programme.

16 Intersessional Working Groups and one ad hoc Working Group on Geographical Scope convened during the Meeting. A new Intersessional Working Group on Alternative Bat Roosts was established.

9. Reports from Working Groups convened during the Meeting

Report of the IWG on Pan European Monitoring

The IWG was held during the plenary AC meeting.

The previous convenor of the IWG, Amy Coyte, left BCT, and the EUROBATS Secretariat had asked Jasja Dekker of the Dutch Mammal Society (DMS) to be the convenor of this group.
At the meeting, the convenor first briefly gave an overview of the history of the IWG Pan European Monitoring of Underground Sites:

PEMBUS was started to meet the aims of Resolution 5.4: Monitoring Bats across Europe. In 2008, a feasibility study on a Pan European Monitoring project was produced, containing a project proposal for (1) the development of methods to create Pan European trends for bats, (2) create a data structure to gather and manage the monitoring data, and (3) build capacity for monitoring. All partners who contribute data to the project would be acknowledged in all resulting publications and outputs, and monitoring protocols laid out in EUROBATS Publication Series No. 5 would be adopted by all participants.

At the last AC Meeting (AC14) it was decided that BCT should put together a bid for EU Life+ funding for this proposed PEMBUS project, with a view to submitting it for consideration to Life+ in September 2009. It was also decided that the PEMBUS project would be managed and coordinated by the BatLife Europe structure to be set up by the BCT, DMS, NABU and other interested NGOs. However, it was necessary to postpone submission for a range of reasons, including the complexity of the bid and because insufficient match funding had been identified from EUROBATS Parties and Range States.

This history was briefly discussed again during the plenary IWG session.

To achieve progress in the PEMBUS, and to simplify the project, the Dutch Mammal Society and Bat Conservation Trust proposed to split the PEMBUS project into two phases with smaller budgets and to increase the chance for funding:

(1) Development of pan European population trends (indicators);

(2) Capacity building.

Phase 2 could follow a successful phase 1, or both phases could run in parallel. The following actions were agreed under each of these areas of work:

(1) Development of pan European population trends (indicators);

An inventory was made of AC countries/NGOs who would be willing to take part and enter data into the project. 19 countries expressed interest in taking part in Pan European indicator:

Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, SFEP, France, NABU, Germany
Hungary  
Ireland  
Italy  
Netherlands  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
San Marino  
Serbia  
Slovak Republic  
Slovenia  
Switzerland  
BCT, United Kingdom

A subset of these countries expressed willingness in actively progressing the Life+ bid, contributing time to develop the bid and locate match funding:
- Hungary (Zoltan Bihari)
- Italy (Danilo Russo)
- Dutch Mammal Society, Netherlands
- San Marino (Dino Scaravelli)
- BCT, United Kingdom

The AC suggested, as a backup plan, to find funds to have those Parties and Non-Parties who have monitoring data series to structure this data, bring it together at a central file, and hire a statistician to develop Pan European population trends for bat species.

(2) Capacity building for national monitoring, to feed into a pan European monitoring programme.

The possibilities of starting phase 2 were discussed. There was concern from Non-EU countries that they would fall outside of the project due to the Life funding criteria. The group reassured the participants that the long-term aim was to include all countries willing to participate and agrees that phase 2 is important to build a strong pan European Monitoring programme. Several suggestions for funds or types of funds to carry out the carrying capacity were put forward and the IWG will continue to investigate these possibilities. The convenor requested parties willing to work out phase 2 under the umbrella of Batlife Europe to come forward during or after the AC15.

BatLife Europe update

The idea of BatLife Europe was first proposed by the IUCN Chiroptera Specialist Group at the European Bat Research Symposium in Le Havre in 2002. At the 11th meeting of the EUROBATS Advisory Committee in Luxembourg in 2006, the Bat Conservation Trust (UK) was invited to establish BatLife Europe and accepted.
BCT has been consulting with Tony Hutson, Peter Lina and Paul Racey over a form of constitution which will be acceptable for registration with the UK charity commission, based on the draft agreed with partner NGOs. An agreed version has just been produced, and this will be registered by BCT, DMS and NABU, with the aim of having a first meeting of BatLife Partner organisations to coincide with the 5th MOP in Prague in September 2010. Information about progress with setting up BatLife Europe will be available on http://www.batlife-europe.info

Actions:

PEMBUS:
1) Convenor and BCT will coordinate finding match-funding and bidding for a Life+ or alternative fund for the phase 1 of the PEMBUS project. This will include providing interested countries with a briefing paper on the project to use to request funding.
2) BCT will research further whether the Life+ bid can be coordinated by BatLife Europe as a newly established NGO with few financial reserves, or whether BCT needs to coordinate with BatLife as an associated beneficiary.
3) IWG members who are willing to work out phase 2 under the umbrella of Batlife Europe to contact the convenor.
4) Convenor will research ways to include countries with long term monitoring programmes who do not have match funding or qualify for Life+ including through the costs and benefits of an alternative strategy, where data gathered so far are standardised, sent to a central point, and a biostatistician is hired to calculate Pan European Trends.

BatLife Europe:
BatLife Europe would be registered by BCT as soon as possible, preferably in the Year of the Bat.

Report of the IWG on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management
Present at the Meeting: Tony Mitchell-Jones (Convenor, UK), May Abido (Syria), Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Sandra Balzer (Germany), Zrinka Domazetović (Croatia), Marina Durović (Montenegro), Suren Gazuryan (Russian Federation), Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Julia Hanmer (UK), Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Jean Matthews (UK), Mirna Mazija (Croatia), Danilo Russo (Italy), Davit Yavruyen (Armenia).

It was noted that the action from MoPŠ “to approach the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) with the aims of introducing bat conservation...”
aspects to the activities and measures under the MCPFE, especially the development of indicators for sustainable forestry, and the appointment of EUROBATS as an observer to the MCPFE” had not yet been completed. The Secretariat was requested to ensure this by MoP6.

The IWG had completed its aim of producing a leaflet on the principles of forestry management for bats. This has been translated into French and German and will also be translated into other languages by the Parties concerned. Ireland and Italy have already produced the leaflet adapted to their national needs.

The IWG discussed the need for detailed guidance and the difficulties in providing this at the EUROBATS level because of the wide variation in types of forest, bat species and forest management practices and also a lack of information in some countries. The Group recognised that detailed good practice guidance has been produced by some countries, which may be helpful to other countries writing their own guidance. To this end, Draft Resolution 6.13 had been finalised.

Report of the IWG on Bats as Indicators
Participants: Karen Haysom (Convenor — United Kingdom), Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Sandra Balzer (Germany), Zoltán Bihari (Hungary), Rasit Bilgin (Turkey), Martin Celuch (Slovak Republic), Jasja Dekker (Netherlands, taking the minutes), Aurora Dibra (Albania), Marie José Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Ludo Holsbeek (Belgium), Tony Hutson (IUCN/UK), Kate Jones (Zoological Society of London, UK), Mark Kalashyan (Armenia), Branko Karapandza (Serbia), Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Carmi Korine (Israel), Hubert Krättli (Switzerland), Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia), Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Stefan Nehring (Germany), Andrea Pauly (Germany), Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Irina Rakhmatulina (Azerbaijan), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Henry Schofield (VWT, UK), Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Maša Ždralović (Montenegro).

The convenor summarised the history of the working group which focuses on indicators (summary statistics to communicate core messages to defined audiences such as policymakers and the public). In brief, the group began at AC11 in 2006 stimulated by the SEBI2010 2006 review of species experts, to identify new taxa that had the capacity to act as biodiversity indicators, alongside other established taxa e.g.

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butterflies and birds to report on progress towards the 2010 target to halt/reduce biodiversity loss. Following this, many members of the IWG submitted information to a report led by KH and commissioned by EEA to collate information on bat monitoring through Europe, the rationale for using bats as indicators and a potential methodology. The groups principle function has been information exchange but at the last AC the group undertook to examine the structure of the national report template, as a possible source of information for a EUROBATS indicator.

Discussion in the working group focused on 1. progress made on devising quantitative questions from the national reports and 2. the format of a draft resolution.

National report as a source of data for an indicator.
At the last AC, we discussed a possible route to proceed: through national reports; as a regular data flow through the secretariat. But how to combine the views from these reports to one indicator? The convenor, Branko Karapandza, and Jasja Dekker have reviewed the national report template and 7-8 example national reports. The template is relatively qualitative, but could allow collation of information on activities aimed at bat conservation activities, and outcome (status of bat species).

A draft analysis of the national report and suggestions for questions to encourage the submission of quantitative standardised information was circulated to the IWG. Comments received included the suggestion to broaden the information source to include information held by the secretariat e.g. the number of member and nonmember parties being represented at the AC-meetings, SC-meetings and MoPs as an indication of commitment to bat conservation. Status information would presently be difficult to extract from national reports because of the great variability in approach to its provision. In the future projects such as PEMBUS might be vehicles for the provision of such data. In the meantime sources such as Article 17 reporting or European mammals assessment may be of value. The group emphasised the need for simplicity and clarity of a questionnaire.

Because of time constraints, the group decided to study the draft questionnaire and report suggestions to Karen Haysom during and after the AC. Karen Haysom, Jasja Dekker, Branko Karapandza and Primož Presetnik to continue to develop questions in line with the comments. Recognising synergies between the working groups, the convenor will also continue to liaise with the convenors of the IWG on Synthesis of National Reports and IWG on Bat Monitoring and the PEMBUS project.
Resolution
The group agreed to the drafting of a resolution with the core themes:
- Parties and Non-Party Range States work to support the development of bats as biodiversity indicators;
- Parties and Non-Party Range States support the objective of gathering the data for these indicators;
- Parties and Non-Party Range States work to ensure that bat data is incorporated within other, multi-taxa indicators e.g. the global Living Planet;
- Parties and Non-Party Range States to continue to explore/progress the development of an indicator of the activities/achievements of EUROBATS from the National reports and related information held by the secretariat.

Report of the IWG on Year of the Bat
Participants: Oliver Schall (Convenor – Germany), May Abido (Syria), Zoltan Bihari (Hungary), Marianne Courouble (France), Jasja Dekker (Dutch Mammal Society, Netherlands), Marina Djurović (Montenegro), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Julia Hanmer (BCT, United Kingdom), Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Karen Haysom (BCT, United Kingdom), Veronika Lenarz (UNEP/CMS), Bert Lenten (UNEP/CMS), Jean Matthews (United Kingdom), Christiane Paulus (Germany)

In their introductions the Acting Deputy Executive Secretary CMS (Bert Lenten) and the Convenor of the IWG (Oliver Schall) explained the background of the recently agreed biennial “Year of the Bat” (2011 focus on Europe / 2012 focus on the whole world). Bert Lenten expressed that CMS has limited knowledge regarding the conservation of bats and made a strong plea to the EUROBATS community to support the global campaign in 2012. He also raised the issue that to run a global campaign decently an amount of approximately EUR 75,000-100,000 is needed and urged Contracting Parties present to provide the necessary financial support needed.

The IWG welcomed the solution found. In a “tour du table” participants expressed their commitment to the campaign. The main goal of the campaign was reconfirmed: to raise comprehension and sympathy for bats in particular in the close neighbourhood, in house and garden.

The draft papers - prepared by the convenor - were discussed as follows:
- The resolution proposal was amended (and as agreed, after the meeting further amendments incorporated for the final discussion in the plenary).
- The paper “International Bat NGOs outside Europe” was presented to help CMS in the preparation of the worldwide campaign: further NGOs should be added, in particular European NGOs — being aware of their (potential) engagement beyond Europe. Respective proposals — so CMS - should be directly sent to Veronika Lenarz (vlenarz@cms.int).

- The language check of the draft brochure for the campaign “Protecting bats” is necessary, because the original brochure (by Peter Boye) was published in German. The translation was made by an American, so European English and technical details need a further proof reading. Jean Matthews and the Bat Conservation Trust offered kindly help to bring the text in a revised version.

- In the Agenda of the “Year of the Bat” the CMS COP in Norway (presumably early in November 2011) should be added: here the launch of the worldwide campaign might take place. National events or other relevant activities of major importance in the different EUROBATS and CMS Range states should follow (for 2012 too) as soon as possible. This agenda should be a starting point for a respective CMS/EUROBATS webpage to support the campaign.

- The Bat Conservation Trust confirmed the readiness to help with their contacts to find a well known flagship person for the campaign: beyond Prince Charles there are other persons, who might be considered: like Mrs. J.K. Rowling (“Harry Potter”) or David Attenborough.

- The poster to support the campaign should have the slogan “Together with bats” and the subtitle: “2011-2012” and show a drawn cute bat to raise sympathy in all parts of the world. Therefore it should not be an identifiable species but a bat that could be found all over the world. Zoltán Bihari presented a well done first draft example (see Doc.EUROBATS.StC4-AC15.20.Rev.1.Annex6).

Epilog: Thursday 6.5.2010 a meeting between the Secretary of EUROBATS, the representative of the Czech Republic (CR) and the convenor took place in the outskirts of the EUROBATS AC/StC: the intention, to launch the campaign at the EUROBATS MOP in Prague in a joint cooperation of Eurobats and CR, was confirmed. All three sides expressed their hope and acknowledgement, that CMS would be participating in this event at a high level, to underline it as a joint activity.

Report of the IWG on Code of Ethics for Field Work and Related Activities
Present: Tony Hutson (Convenor - United Kingdom), Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Rasit Bilgin (Turkey), Aurora Dibra (Albania), Martin Celůch (Slovak Republic), Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Helena
The working group discussed the concept and scope of such a code of ethics and the draft Resolution was discussed. The draft was broadly accepted and is made available as Draft Resolution 6.5 in Doc.EUROBATS.StC4-AC15.15. In support of implementation of the Resolution, it was requested that the Secretariat ensure that the updated list of Focal Points and competent authorities is readily available on the EUROBATS website. There was also discussion about including a short national statement to a given format to explain the national legislation protecting bats for each range state.

Report of the IWG on Transboundary Programme

Present: Tony Mitchell-Jones (Convenor - United Kingdom), Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Rasit Bilgin (Turkey), Aurora Dibra (Albania), Martin Celüch (Slovak Republic), Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Kate Jones (United Kingdom), Mark Kalashyan (Armenia), Branko Karapandža (Republic of Serbia), Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Carmi Korine (Israel), Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Peter Lina (the Netherlands), Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Mirna Mazija (Croatia), Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia), Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom), Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Sven Nekum (Germany), Andrea Pauly (Germany), Boyan Petrov (Bulgaria), Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Paul Racey (United Kingdom), Irina Rakhmatulina (Azerbaijan), Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Henry Schofield (United Kingdom), Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Farkas Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Triiino Tūrv (Estonia), Jens Trasberger (Germany), Davit Yavruyan (Armenia), Maša Ždralovic (Montenegro).
The IWG met to discuss Draft Resolution 6.6, which contains three elements. On the first element, the publication of the list of underground sites of international importance, it was agreed to add ‘site type’ to the list of information to be published. The opportunity for Parties and Range States to indicate, on a site by site basis, the need to limit the data made publicly available was noted and agreed. The IWG considered that publication of the site lists should be only on the EUROBATS website and, after discussion, agreed that, as the data to be published would be modified in line with the wishes of Parties and Range States, it would be acceptable to publish the data both as lists and maps at the country level. It was accepted that any publication of the numbers of bats at each site should be left to the Party or Range State concerned, though the preparation of thematic maps, at the European level, categorising sites by the number of bats or the number of species, would significantly enhance the website publication. It was also agreed that the site selection criteria prepared by the IWG would be published along with the site lists.

The second element of the draft resolution, setting up a review process, was also agreed by the IWG, with the insertion of the work ‘underground’ to make it clear that the resolution related to the diversity of underground sites. It was recognised that a measured approach to reviewing the site lists, rather than an ad hoc approach, would be required. An IWG would be needed to take this process forward after MoP5.

The proposal to require Parties to report on the status of listed sites, the third element of the draft resolution, was also discussed. It was agreed that, given the international importance of listed sites, the requirement to report on their condition at every MoP was appropriate. It was noted that Parties and Range States also had the option of submitting data with annual updates to their reports. The AC could be requested to advise on the form and type of data to be submitted for each site.

Report of IWG on Bat Migration
Participants: Dino Scaravelli (Convenor – San Marino), May Abido (Syria), Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Sandra Balzer (Germany), Zoltán Bihari (Hungary), Rasit Bilgin (Turkey), Martin Celčích (Slovak Republic), Aurora Dibra (Albania), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (France), Marina Durović (Montenegro), Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Julia Hanmer (United Kingdom), Tony Hutson (United Kingdom), Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Kate Jones (United Kingdom), Mark Kalashyan (Armenia), Branko Karapandža (Republic of Serbia), Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Thierry
Kervin (Belgium), Carmi Korine (Israel), Hubert Krättli (Switzerland), Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Peter Lina (the Netherland), Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Jean Matthews (United Kingdom), Mirna Mazija (Croatia), Branko Micevski (FYR Macedonia), Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Sven Nekum (Germany), Andrea Pauly (Germany), Boyan Petrov (Bulgaria), Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Paul Racey (United Kingdom), Irina Rakhmatulina (Azerbaijan), Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Henry Schofield (United Kingdom), Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Farkas Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Jens Trasberger (Germany), David Yavruyan (Armenia), Maša Ždrelević (Montenegro).

The background of this IWG came from the consideration that the Bat Agreement originated from the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals opened for signature in Bonn on 23 June 1979 and bat migration is well recognised as a keystone characteristic in European bats and an ad hoc IWG was created at MoP5 in Ljubljana.

Not only the long-distance migratory species are deeply depending upon seasonal movements but also many other bat species have important ecological movements.

The travelling between hibernation and reproductive roost, foraging areas and related commuting route also move species across boundaries sometimes beyond the actual geographical scope of the Agreement.

The activity of the IWG during the last meetings was to collect information on migration of species in the range of the Agreement from literature and different specialist.

Some recent publication summarised the migration information from banding in Europe and the recent Berlin Conference on Bat Migration demonstrate how newly available techniques and processes can help to evaluate bat movements (e.g. genetics, isotope, GPRS and new telemetry) as well as new species show larger home range and possibility of movements.

Nevertheless information about many species is still poor and there is a necessity to determine possible migration corridors, commuting routes and ecological movements.

In the discussion it was also underlined that migration can be important to understanding the spread of infections that can be harmful to bats and also to humans.

Thus, the group wishes to increase the importance of migration studies to Parties and Non-Party Range States preparing also a draft resolution.
The IWG wants to demonstrate that there is still a deep necessity to undertake priority studies to identify long distance migration routes with the use of modern (e.g. genetics, isotope analysis, telemetry) or classical methods, and in particular is urging to provide opportunity to do research in transboundary situations.

Also a re-analysis of the previously collected questionnaire will be done and a new questionnaire will be prepared after the MoP, when it is requested to continue the work of this IWG.

The IWG strongly asks all the focal points to submit literature and especially to collect available information in other languages, helping in the translation providing key word or summaries.

Widely among the delegates it is requested to make better exchange relationship with the bird banding organizations as bats can be caught in bird ringing activity and also can share similar migration flyways.

Also the IWG is underlining that species previously considered sedentary are now known to be able to have long distance movements that can go beyond the border of countries and of the geographical scope of the Agreement (e.g. Miniopterus schreibersii).

The IWG also remembers the importance that, since migratory routes and local movements can be heavily affected by the construction of wind farms, a detailed assessment of the presence of bat in these sites at different time of the year is required, in accordance with the prescriptions and protocols previously prepared by the IWG on wind turbine.

Report of the IWG on Synthesis of EUROBATS Activities
Present: Peter Boye (Convenor – German Mammal Alliance), Jasja Dekker (VZZ, Netherlands), Karen Haysom (BCT), Tony Mitchell-Jones (UK).

The IWG on the Synthesis of EUROBATS Activities reviewed the Report of the AC14 Meeting in Cyprus in 2009 and reflected the decisions which were made there by the IWG and have been acknowledged by the Advisory Committee.

In the IWG there was consensus about the need to improve the use of bats as indicators for environmental quality. Therefore the IWG supported the proposal made by the IWG on Indicators to regularly provide bat indicator values or data, which contribute to the creation of bat indicators, with the National Reports and their updates. In the discussion it was suggested to encourage a revision of the format of National
Reports under the Agreement not only to cover bat indicator values, but also with the aim of a harmonisation with the reporting duties under the EU Habitats Directive. The overall target should be a general reduction of the working load connected to reporting in general. To communicate these ideas to the Plenary and the next MoP the IWG considered an additional paragraph in the operational Part of Draft Resolution 6.11 (Doc.EUROBATS.StC4-AC15.21.Rev.1)

The IWG also noted the current status of the preparation of an illustrated brochure about the history, activity and success of the EUROBATS Agreement. The group acknowledged that the Secretariat has engaged a consultant for this purpose. However, at the same time the IWG regretted that it was not possible to present the concept or a first draft of the achieved publication to the AC15 Meeting.

Report of the IWG on Conservation and Management of critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes

Delegates attending the meeting: Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Convenor — Finland), May Abido (Syria), Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Zoltan Bihari (Hungary), Rasit Bilgin (Turkey), Martin Celuch (Slovak Republic), Jasja Dekker (Dutch Mammal Society), Aurora Dibra (Albania), Zrinka Domazetović (Croatia), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Marina Durović (Montenegro), Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Christine Harbusch (NABU), Tony Hutson (United Kingdom), Karen Haysom (Bat Conservation Trust), Helena Jahelková (Czech Republic), Mark Kalashyan (Armenia), Branko Karapandža (Republic of Serbia), Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Carmi Korine (Israel), Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Mirna Mazija (Oikon Ltd., Croatia), Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom), Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia & Herzegovina), Stefan Nehring (Germany), Boyan Petrov (Bulgaria), Paul Racey (United Kingdom), Irina Rakhmatulina (Azerbaijan), Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Henry Schofield (The Vincent Wildlife Trust), Farkas Szodoray-Paradi (Romanian Bat Protection Association), Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Jens Trasberger (Bat Protection Group Bonn), Davit Yavruyan (Armenia).

The working group discussed following topics:
- Feedback on working tools;
- Guidelines document;
- Draft resolution.
The group started with a short discussion on the working methods that were used so far. It was agreed that the group would continue using online tools in preparing the guidelines document and in storing all documents of the IWG.

On the guidelines document, based on the report Doc.EUROBATS.StC4-AC15.28, the group discussed the species accounts and the structure of the guidelines. A list of species and responsible authors for the species accounts was circulated in order to encourage delegates to contact authors if they have new data on the species or data that is missing from the current version of the species account. It was agreed that for species on which there is no studies available it will be stated ‘no information available’ rather than adding some general text based on closely related species.

Concerning the structure of the guidelines document, the group agreed on splitting the chapter ‘How to protect critical feeding areas' into two: a general chapter on landscape structure and changes in it and a more detailed chapter dealing with e.g. different habitat types. It was also agreed that summarizing tables on the critical feeding areas shall be included in the general chapters before species accounts and that all references should be in the end of the document. Recommendations concerning the impact on bat populations of the use of antiparasitic drugs for livestock will be inserted in the appropriate species accounts as well as in the general chapters of the guidelines, based on the report of the respective IWG (Doc.EUROBATS.StC4-AC15.29).

A Draft Resolution 6.8 Conservation and Management of critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes (Doc. EUROBATS.St4-AC15.18) was prepared.

Report of the IWG on EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)

Present: Peter Lina (Convenor - Netherlands), May Abido (Syria), Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Stéphane Aulagnier (France) Peter Boye (German Mammal Alliance), Marianne Courouble (France), Aurora Dibra (Albania), Alison Elliot (United Kingdom), Jean Matthews (United Kingdom), Mirna Mazija (Oikon, Croatia), Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Stefan Nehring (Germany), Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Maša Ždralević (Montenegro).

The Working Group discussed Doc.EUROBATS.StC4-AC15.14 and its annexes. It was proposed to change 'intersessional sub-committee' into 'EPI selection working group'. Submitted projects are eligible when they contribute to the objectives of the Agreement and its Resolutions. It was suggested that the Secretariat passes
submitted project proposals to the EPI selection working group with a notification to
the relevant focal point(s). A few other amendments were proposed for the Resolution
and the annexes. Parallel to the meeting of the Working Group the Standing
Committee was reviewing the Draft-Resolution too. In a second meeting the Working
Group amended the revised draft of the Standing Committee.

Report of the ad hoc Working Group on Amendment of the Annex of the
Agreement
Present: Tony Hutson (Convenor - United Kingdom), Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Suren
Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Lena Godlevska
(Ukraine), Branko Karapandža (Republic of Serbia), Peter Lina (Netherlands), Boyan
Petrov (Bulgaria), Paul Racey (United Kingdom), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino).

The ad hoc Working Group discussed Doc.EUROBATS.StC4-AC15.12.Rev.1. The
Convenor updated participants on situations that had been in some doubt when the
document was prepared, but which have now been addressed. It is hoped that two
other matters can be resolved by the time of the MoP. No further issues were identified
that affect the list of species at present. It was agreed that a revised resolution that
incorporated these clarifications will be drafted for the MoP.

Report of the IWG on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations
The IWG met in a plenary session during the course of the Meeting. It was decided
that an update of the Guidelines on Wind Turbines should be postponed until
substantial new information is available. After discussing the future work, in particular
the possibility of using a common statistical method to evaluate mortality rates, and
asking the different Parties and non-Party Range States to send their information on
mortality studies, Draft Resolution 6.12 was prepared.

Report of the IWG on the Impact on Bat Populations of the Use of Antiparasitic
Drugs for Livestock
Present: Tony Hutson (Convenor – IUCN/UK), May Abido (Syria), Jasja Dekker (Dutch
Mammal Society, Netherlands), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France),
Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Karen Haysom (BCT, UK), Thierry Kervyn
(Belgium), Peter Lina (Netherlands), Paul Racey (UK), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino),
Henry Schofield (VWT, UK), Maša Ždraljević (Montenegro).

The working group discussed Doc.EUROBATS.StC4-AC15.29. It was agreed that a
Resolution would be developed for MoP6 and that this would include an Annex of
management recommendations. The Draft Resolution was discussed and revised. A
concise annotated bibliography of key references and the table of bat species at risk will be finalised. A list of groups for which the recommendation will have maximum impact will be identified.

It has already been agreed with the IWG on Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes that information on the risks of impact from antiparasitic drugs and management recommendations will be incorporated into their report (publication). Any further information of relevance to this report (especially on management recommendations, research requirements, and bat species at particular risk) will be reported to the Convenor as soon as possible for a report and Resolution to be finalised for the MoP6.

Report of the IWG on Impact of Roads and other Traffic Infrastructures

Attending participants: Marianne Courouble (Convenor - France), Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Zoltán Bihari (Hungary), Rasin Bilgin (Turkey), Martin Celuch (Slovak Republic), Aurora Dibra (Albania), Marina Djurović (Montenegro), Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Julia Hanmer (United Kingdom), Ludo Holsbeek (Belgium), Helena Jiahelková (Czech Republic), Mark Kalashyan (Armenia), Branko Karapandža (Republic of Serbia), Andrzej Keppel (Poland), Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Jean Matthews (United Kingdom), Mirna Mazija (Croatia), Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom), Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Andrea Pauly (Germany), Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Danilo Russo (Italy), Abigel Szoraday-Paradi (Romania), Farkas Szoraday-Paradi (Romania), Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Davit Yavruyan (Armenia).

Marianne Courouble, France, the new coordinator of the IWG, replacing Nathalie Lacour, chaired the meeting.

1) Update of progress made

The discussion started with a brief update of the main tasks of the IWG:

- Compilation of literature research (responsibility: Primož Presetnik): No further elements were added to the compilation of literature research since AC14. The members of the IWG were reminded to send copies of articles and material to Primož Presetnik.

- Drafting guidelines (responsibility: Dr. Aurora Dibra and Ms Jean Matthews): The IWG decided to prepare a EUROBATS Publication for the purpose and therefore abandoned the previous idea of preparing a leaflet along the lines of the EUROBATS forestry leaflet. The option of a publication series was considered as
having a bigger impact on national governments and can contain more information than a simple leaflet. The IWG also decided to focus the publication only on roads as important data is available on the impact of roads while there is less information on the impact of other infrastructures. However, it was agreed that references would be made to the need to consider the impacts of other infrastructures. Jean Matthews and Aurora Dibra will continue coordinating the activity, but several other country representatives offered to participate in the drafting as well: Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, UK (BCT), Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, France. It was also agreed that Hermann Limpens and Lothar Bach would be approached for advice on the guideline drafting. Portugal (Luisa Rodrigues) mentioned the existence of a lot of materials that could be used to develop a case study on Portugal in the publication. The IWG started the drafting of the main chapter of the publication. Responsibilities for each chapter will be allocated to the country representatives who offer their assistance.

2) Draft resolution on the impact of roads and other infrastructures

The IWG recalled the conclusions of their work at AC14 and accordingly decided to draft a resolution on the impact of roads and other infrastructures for consideration at the next MoP in September. The resolution was drafted (see Draft Resolution 6.15) during the meeting and is ready for further consideration.

Report of the IWG on Light Pollution

Participants: Ludo Holsbeek (Convenor – Belgium), Dino Scaravelli (Convenor – San Marino), Zoltán Bihari (Hungary), Marianne Courouble (France), Jasja Dekker (Dutch Mammal Society, Netherlands), Aurora Dibra (Albania), Marina Djurović (Montenegro), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEM, France), Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Karen Haysom (BCT, United Kingdom), Pascal Hirsch (BAFF, Germany), Mark Kalashyan (Armenia), Branko Karapandža (Serbia), Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Thierry Kervyn (Belgium), Carmi Korine (Israel) Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Jean Matthews (United Kingdom), Mirna Mazija (Oikon, Croatia), Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom), Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia & Herzegovina), Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Andrea Pauly (Germany), Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Paul Racey (University of Exeter, United Kingdom), Henry Schofield (VWT, United Kingdom), Abigel Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Farkas Szodoray-Paradi (Romanian Bat Protection Association), Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Davit Yavruyan (Armenia), Maša Ždarević (Montenegro).
As a general position, not dependant on possible positive or negative effects on bat populations and foraging, a dark night landscape has been proven beneficial to both human health and the natural world. The IWG on Light Pollution strongly supports all measures to maintain or create a darker night landscape.

The IWG recommends that the obvious and scientifically proven negative effects of strong direct lighting on bat roosts and ponds and rivers as hunting grounds for bat have to be integrated into legal instruments concerned with environmental and species conservation. For the EU this translates into integration of a series of restrictive criteria into the Favourable State of Conservation species, regional and local plans.

Light pollution by roads and other sources might result in a possible fragmentation of the night landscape, possibly creating a barrier effect for bat commuting routes. There is evidence for several species, but more studies are needed, reporting on negative as well as on no effects. All MS and researchers can contribute to this by analysing or designing commuting tracking experiments with respect to possible light barriers in the night landscape.

Despite conclusive evidence of a possible depletion of insects and therefore indirectly, a possible delayed effect on bat populations, the IWG strongly support avoiding UV components in all existing and new generation lamps. Along with trying to influence the actual ways of lighting, now is also the time to influence the technical specificities of LED and other new generation lamps. New generation LED-based lamps can be well designed within a spectrum that does not influence bats, and wildlife as a whole. More research in this field, as well on possible effects of light pollution on bats is greatly needed.

Future recommendations on best practices should include which light armatures combine the desired effect of lighting and at the same time avoid light dispersal.

The IWG will produce a reference list that will regularly be updated.

Light pollution must be an integral part of all relevant Environmental Impact Assessment schemes.

The IWG reflects on the possibility to produce of a questionnaire on the use of light pollution in existing EIA and related environmental impact assessments.

Cross reference will have to made with the results of the IWG on roads and critical foraging areas.
Ad hoc Working Group on Geographical Scope of the Agreement
Present: Stéphane Aulagnier (Convenor - France), May Abido (Syria), Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Rasit Bilgin (Turkey), Julia Hanmer (United Kingdom), Tony Hutson (IUCN/SSC, United Kingdom), Mark Kalashyan (Armenia), Carmi Korine (Israel), Peter Lina (the Netherlands), Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Danilo Russo (Italy), Jens Trasberger (Germany).

The Working Group agreed two suggestions to improve the Draft Resolution 6.3, defined the map of the Western Palaearctic and decided the way to collect the information needed to support the addition of countries listed in annex A.

Resolution:

Recognising

the potential for bat agreements to be developed for the conservation of non-European bat populations.

2. That for the purposes of the Agreement, its geographical scope shall be defined as the Western Palaearctic region, with the Svalbard Archipelago as the northern boundary, to the south the countries of the Mediterranean basin (extending to The Canary and Madeira islands), to the East the longitude 50° East and to the West the Azores at 30° West as boundaries.

Requests the Advisory Committee to keep abreast of new research on bat migration and to review the geographic scope of the Agreement accordingly, should this become necessary.

Countries consequently added to the Annex A:
Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Libya, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia.

Further information will be collected by an Intersessional Working Group before the next MoP on the status of European bat species in each country of the Western Palaearctic which is not yet a range state according to decreasing criteria:

- proved migration between the Agreement area and the country;
- supposed migration due to the seasonal absence of the species in the country;
- genetic evidence of shared populations;
- absence of genetic differentiation at the subspecies (or species) level;
- presence of the species.

Report of the IWG on WNS
Present: Raul Racey (Convenor - University of Exeter, United Kingdom), Zoltán Bihari (Hungary), Rasit Bilgin (Turkey), Martin Celuch (Slovak Republic), Jasja Dekker (Dutch Mammal Society, Netherlands), Aurora Dibra (Albania), Marina Djurović
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Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Marie Nedinge (Sweden), Andrea Pauly
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(Portugal), Danilo Russo (Italy), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Henry Schofield (VWT,
United Kingdom), Farkas Szodoray-Paradi (Romanian Bat Protection Association),
Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Maša Ždralević (Montenegro)

The wording of the Draft Resolution 6.7 (Guidelines for the Prevention, Detection and
Control of lethal fungal Infection in Bats) was modified in the light of suggestions
received from the working group and some of those received from the Standing
Committee. In addition, Annex 1 was removed from the Draft Resolution as it will
appear elsewhere.

Report of the IWG on Man-made Purpose-built Bat Roosts
Members of the IWG: Henry Schofield (UK, Convenor), Martin Celuch (Slovak
Republic), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (France), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Christine
Harbusch (Germany), Karen Haysom (UK), Pascal Hirsch (Germany), Branko
Karapandža (Serbia), Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Kervyn Thierry (Belgium), Eeva-Maria
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Rodrigues (Portugal), Danilo Russo (Italy), Farkas Szodoray-Paradi (Romania), Triinu
Tõrv (Estonia), Maša Ždralević (Montenegro).

The IWG was proposed as in high human population density areas of Europe the
renovation of derelict or semi-derelict buildings is reducing the availability of roosts for
bats. Mitigating for this requires the provision of replacement roosts.

The role of the IWG would be to

- Look at current practice across the EUROBATS range
- Draw together case studies of successful and unsuccessful schemes for a
  range of species
- Synthesize this information into a publication demonstrating good practice.
The group met for the first time and discussed the scope of the IWG. It will consider purpose-built roosts for bats, ranging from newly constructed roosts to the adaptation of structures previously not used by bats in both the summer and the winter. The group will not consider bat boxes or mitigation measures within existing roosts. Initially the group will gather data on all bat species, whilst recognizing the list may be narrowed down in future meetings.

A draft questionnaire will be drawn up and circulated to members of the group for editing and comment before it is submitted to the Secretariat.

10. Discussion on and finalisation of Draft Resolutions to be submitted to MoP6

Draft Resolutions 6.2 to 6.15 were finalised and agreed upon for submission to the 6th Session of the Meeting of Parties and are annexed to this Record.

11. Any other business

There was no other business.

12. Date and venue of the 16th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Mr. Ioseb Natradze (Georgia) read out a formal invitation letter from the Minister for the Environment to host AC16 in 2011.

The Executive Secretary added that four Parties and 1 Non-Party Range State had signalled their readiness to host the next AC Meeting. He thanked all of them for their strong commitment to EUROBATS.

13. Adoption of the Record of the Meeting

The Record was adopted by consensus.

14. Close of the Meeting

The Executive Secretary expressed his sincere thanks to the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of both Committees for having conducted the sessions in such an excellent manner. He also thanked all participants and his assistants for their hard work and fruitful contributions. The results achieved were promising a very smooth MoP6 in Prague in September. He wished everyone a good and safe travel home.

The Chair of the Standing Committee thanked for the excellent organisation of this Meeting. He expressed his feeling that both scientific and administrative matters were well prepared for MoP6 and that the expected decisions of the MoP would be a
significant step forward in the evolution of the Agreement. He was looking forward to meeting everyone again in Prague.

Both Chairs bid farewell to Christine Boye (Administrative Assistant) on behalf of all participants.

The Chair of the Advisory Committee expressed once more the German Government for hosting the Meeting and for offering the pleasant side events. He also thanked the Executive Secretary, Mr. Andreas Streit, and his staff members, Ms. Christine Boye, Ms. Kate Horn and Ms. Tine Meyer-Cords for the excellent organisation of the Meeting. Furthermore, he expressed his gratitude towards the Vice-Chair, Ms Luisa Rodrigues, for her support, and towards the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee, for their fruitful co-operation, and last but not least the participants of the Meeting making the outcome of the Meeting so successful for further preparations of the forthcoming Session of the Meeting of Parties.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 13:45 h.
4th Meeting of the Standing Committee
15th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Bonn, Germany, 3 – 6 May 2010

List of Participants of the Advisory Committee

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4th Meeting of the Standing Committee
15th Meeting of the Advisory Committee
Bonn, Germany, 3 – 6 May 2010

Draft Resolution 6.2
Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement

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

Recalling Resolution No. 7 adopted at its Third Session (Bristol, July 2000), amending the Agreement and incorporating an Annex of bat species occurring in Europe to which the Agreement applies;

Appreciating that the majority of Parties has already accepted the Amendment to the Agreement and that it has entered into force in August 2001;

Recognising that there will be the need to amend the Annex from time to time in the light of recent research results;

Further recognising that the names of bat species included in the Annex should conform to the rules of nomenclature laid down by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature;

Noting that IUCN — The World Conservation Union as well as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) identify Mammal Species of the World by Wilson and Reeder (Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington; John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore) as the standard list of mammals;

Acknowledges the establishment of an Advisory Panel of specialists to consider potential changes to the Annex;

Agrees to adopt the following changes to the Annex, on the recommendation of the Advisory Panel; and

Notes other potential changes to the Annex, but which are rejected or deferred pending the availability of further information;
Decides to:

1. Replace the name Barbastella leucomelas with Barbastella darjelingensis (Hodgson, 1855);

2. Accept the addition of Eptesicus anatolicus Felten, 1971 to the list of species of the Annex (and retain Eptesicus bottae in the list);

3. Accept the addition of Eptesicus isabellinus (Temminck, 1840) to the list of species of the Annex;

4. Accept the addition of Myotis escaleraí (Cabrera, 1904) to the list of species of the Annex;


Adopts the revised list of species for the Annex to the Agreement as attached to this Resolution.
Bat species occurring in Europe to which the Agreement applies:

The following list is as agreed at MoP5 in 2006. It will be modified in the light of changes proposed in this Resolution and accepted by the Meeting of Parties in Prague 2010.

Pteropodidae
Rousettus aegyptiacus (Geoffroy, 1810)

Emballonuridae
Taphozous nudiventris Cretzschmar, 1830

Rhinolophidae
Rhinolophus blasii Peters, 1866
Rhinolophus euryale Blasius, 1853
Rhinolophus ferrumequinum (Schreber, 1774)
Rhinolophus hipposideros (Bechstein, 1800)
Rhinolophus mehelyi Matschie, 1901

Vespertilionidae
Barbastella barbastellus (Schreber, 1774)
Barbastella darjelingensis (Hodgson, 1855)
Eptesicus bottae (Peters, 1869)
Eptesicus nilssonii (Keyserling & Blasius, 1839)
Eptesicus anatolicus Felten, 1971
Eptesicus isabellinus (Temminck, 1840)
Eptesicus serotinus (Schreber, 1774)
Hypsugo savii (Bonaparte, 1837)
Myotis alcathoe von Helversen & Heller, 2001
Myotis aurascens Kuzyakin, 1935
Myotis bechsteini (Kuhl, 1817)
Myotis blythii (Tomes, 1857)
Myotis brandti (Eversmann, 1845)
Myotis capaccinii (Bonaparte, 1837)
Myotis dasycneme (Boie, 1825)
Myotis daubentoni (Kuhl, 1817)
Myotis emarginatus (Geoffroy, 1806)

Myotis escalerai (Cabrera, 1904)
Myotis hajastanicus Argyropulo, 1939
Myotis myotis (Borkhausen, 1797)
Myotis mystacinus (Kuhl, 1817)
Myotis nattereri (Kuhl, 1817)
Myotis nipalensis (Dobson, 1871)
Myotis punicus Felten, 1977
Myotis schaubi Kormos, 1934
Nyctalus lasiopterus (Schreber, 1780)
Nyctalus leisleri (Kuhl, 1817)
Nyctalus noctula (Schreber, 1774)
Otonycteris hemprichii Peters, 1859
Pipistrellus hanaki Hulva & Benda, 2004
Pipistrellus kuhlii (Kuhl, 1817)
Pipistrellus nathusii (Keyserling & Blasius, 1839)
Pipistrellus pipistrellus (Schreber, 1774)
Pipistrellus pygmaeus (Leach, 1825)
Plecotus auritus (Linnaeus, 1758)
Plecotus austriacus (Fischer, 1829)
Plecotus kolombatovici Dulic, 1980
Plecotus macrobullaris Kuzyakin, 1965
Plecotus sardus Mucedda, Kiefer, Pidinchedda & Veith, 2002
Vespertilio murinus Linnaeus, 1758
Miniopterus schreibersii (Kuhl, 1817)

Molossidae
Tadarida teniotis (Rafinesque, 1814)
4th Meeting of the Standing Committee
15th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Bonn, Germany, 3 – 6 May 2010

Draft Resolution 6.3
Geographical Scope of the Agreement

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

Recalling Resolutions 2.5 and 5.11 on the Geographical Scope of the Agreement;

Further recalling the second Amendment to the Agreement giving additional emphasis to non-European Range States in which populations of European bats are occurring;

Noting that European bats migrate to and from beyond the previously designated geographical scope of the Agreement;

Recognising that populations of European bats are occurring throughout the Western Palaearctic region;

Recognising the potential for bat agreements to be developed for the conservation of non-European bat populations;

Decides:

1. To repeal Resolutions 2.5 and 5.11;

2. That for the purposes of the Agreement, its geographical scope shall be defined as the Western Palaearctic region, with the Svalbard Archipelago as the northern boundary, to the south the countries of the Mediterranean basin (extending to The Canary and Madeira islands), to the East the longitude 50° East and to the West the Azores at 30° West as boundaries;

3. To accept the list attached as Annex A to this Resolution as the countries and Regional Economic Integration Organisations falling within the “Western Palaearctic region” as described above.
Requests the Advisory Committee to keep abreast of new research on bat migration and to review the geographic scope of the Agreement accordingly, should this become necessary.
Annex A.Rev.3

Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Egypt
Estonia
European Union
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Holy See
Hungary
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kuwait
Latvia
Lebanon
Libya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macedonia (FYR)
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Morocco
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Saudi Arabia
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Syria
Tunisia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom
4th Meeting of the Standing Committee
15th Meeting of the Advisory Committee
Bonn, Germany, 3 – 6 May 2010

Draft Resolution 6.4
Guidelines for the Implementation of the
EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI)

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

Recalling that many fundamental obligations of Parties require actions which may
significantly benefit from small scale funding, but often do not meet the eligibility criteria
of national or international project funds;

Further recalling that the Secretariat has launched the EUROBATS Projects
Initiative (EPI) in August 2008 as a suitable instrument to provide appropriate funding
for small to medium sized bat conservation projects;

Appreciating the successful start of EPI which has attracted both a significant
number of project proposals as well as additional voluntary contributions for its
operation;

Recognising the need for further refinement of its framework as it was
recommended by the Secretariat based on comments received from donor countries;

Noting that the Standing Committee has strongly supported the Secretariat’s
recommendations;

Further recognising the opinion of the Advisory Committee and Standing
Committee according to the scope and evaluation procedure of eligible project
applications;

Acknowledges all voluntary contributions raised so far to support EPI;

Confirms the authorisation by the Standing Committee to use accrued interest
income from the Trust Fund as an additional source of funding for EPI;
Notes that EPI has regard to new small to medium size projects (costs of up to 10,000 EUR) which contribute to the objectives of the Agreement and will be implemented within the Agreement area;

Agrees on the following criteria to be taken into account when assessing the priority of eligible project applications to the Agreement and its Resolutions:

- Predictable impact for bat conservation, in particular the implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan of the Agreement, other EUROBATS Resolutions, national conservation targets or public awareness,
- Degree of transboundary character,
- Effects on the promotion of international cooperation of Parties and Range States,
- The ability of the project to provide innovative information and experience that can be shared with other parties and range states,
- Effects on the education and motivation of newly established bat workers,
- European conservation concern of targeted species as defined by other EUROBATS Resolutions or the European Mammal Assessment,
- Envisioned outcomes of the project like publications, guidelines or follow-up programmes, educational outreach.

Requests the Advisory Committee to establish an EPI Selection Working Group of up to six persons who assess the priority of eligible project proposals in accordance with the criteria listed above;

Urges the appointed EPI selection working group of the Advisory Committee to take into account the long-term impacts in education and motivation of bat workers, if projects are funded which are proposed and implemented by newly established bat workers;

Instructs the Secretariat to collect project applications dedicated to EPI and upon notification and consultation with National focal point/authorities pass those which are eligible to the EPI Selection Working Group for further assessments;

Further requests the Advisory Committee to provide the Secretariat with the EPI Selection Working Group assessment of project priority during the Advisory Committee;
Further instructs the Secretariat to submit the prioritised list of project applications and the EPI Selection Working Group assessments to all Parties with an encouragement to ensure appropriate funding through voluntary contributions;

Accepts the standard formats for project applications and final reports which are attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to this Resolution.
Guidelines for the Implementation of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI): Standard Format for Applications

1. Project title/ Name of the Country (Countries)
2. Applicant (name, institution, address, telephone, fax, e-mail, web)
3. Project Leader (name, statement of experience as a bat worker, institution, address, telephone, fax, e-mail, web)
4. Organisation (name, date established, status (NGO, university, other), address, telephone, fax, e-mail, web)
5. Project partners (names and institutions) (Applicant to be approved by each partner)
6. Region of project implementation
7. Project period
8. Description of the project (up to 500 words):
   a) Aims / Goal
   b) Activities / Methods
   c) Outcomes (aimed publications, guidelines, follow-up programmes etc.)
9. Contribution of the project to the objectives of the EUROBATS Agreement with special reference to:
   a) Numbers and names of related EUROBATS Resolutions;
   b) Related points of action of the Conservation and Management Plan;
   c) National bat conservation targets in the region of project implementation;
   d) Education
   e) Public awareness
10. Transboundary character of the project with special reference to:
   a) Promotion of international cooperation of Parties and Range States;
   b) Contribution to the conservation of species of European conservation concern in accordance to EUROBATS Resolutions or the European Mammal Assessment;
   c) Contribution to the implementation of other Conventions or Agreements.
11. Involvement of national or local authorities or bodies (if applicable)
12. Is authorisation (permits etc.) required: yes/no (if yes explain).
13. Total costs of the project, funding already secured, and amount of applied EPI funding requested

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task/item</th>
<th>Cost (in-kind or from other resources, indicate)</th>
<th>EPI funding requested</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sum</td>
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<td>Total sum</td>
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14. Declaration of the Applicant

"The information submitted in this application is true, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. Should any significant developments arise after this application is made, I shall notify UNEP/EUROBATS Secretariat. I consent to the information contained in this application being held on computer and circulated to EPI Selection Group and National authorities concerned."

Date, Signature
Guidelines for the Implementation of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI):
Standard Format for Final Reports

1. Project title/ Name of the Country
2. Project leader (name, institution, address, telephone, fax, e-mail, web)
3. Project partners (names, institutions, addresses)
4. Author of the report (name, institution, address, telephone, fax, e-mail, web)
5. Region of project implementation
6. Project period
7. Report on implementation and development (including full information on contributions from collaborative partners and further resources)
8. Problems occurred during the project
9. Contribution of the project to the objectives of the EUROBATS Agreement (with special reference to bat conservation, research, public awareness and international cooperation, recommendation (if applicable))
10. Products (e.g. publications, workshops, seminars) and other outcomes of the project
11. Detailed financial report (all expenditures explained and copy of receipts enclosed)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Task/item</th>
<th>Cost (In-kind or from other resources, indicate)</th>
<th>EPI funding obtained</th>
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12. Summary (a short article with the most important outcomes to be put online on the EUROBATS website. The final report and the summary should contain acknowledgements to the donor countries that funded the project).
4th Meeting of the Standing Committee
15th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Bonn, Germany, 3 – 6 May 2010

Draft Resolution 6.5
Guidelines on Ethics for Research and Field Work Practices

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

Recalling that EUROBATS Agreement Article III, especially paragraph 1 and paragraph 7, identifies the requirement to protect bats and to promote, as appropriate, research and collaboration in such research;

Further recalling EUROBATS Resolutions 4.6 and 5.5 on Guidelines for the Issue of Permits for the Capture and Study of Captured Wild Bats (especially 4.6 paragraphs 3, 10-13 and associated parts of the Annex);

Recognising the needs for research, especially where it is of benefit to conservation, or adds to knowledge of a country’s biodiversity;

Further recognising the need to regulate such research, including when such research is carried out in a ‘host’ country;

Also recognising the role of a ‘home’ country in managing responsible research within and beyond its territory;

Further recognising the role of a ‘host’ country in enabling responsible research within its territory;

Noting the availability of appropriate Codes of Practice for establishments which are depositories of specimens collected from the wild;

Further noting the availability of appropriate Codes of Practice for establishments under whose auspices research which may disturb live animals, especially invasive research, is being carried out or which will be holders of such animals;
Urges Parties and Range States:

1. That institutes under whose auspices collecting of specimens is being carried out or which will be recipients of the material

1.1. Should have an appropriate Code of Practice that addresses the context and legitimacy of acquisition, due diligence, long-term care, documentation and relevance to overriding, institutional aims. Specimens are acquired on the basis that they will be retained in the public domain. In particular, the Institute will not acquire any specimen unless it is satisfied that the specimen has not been acquired in, or exported from, its country of origin in violation of that country’s laws;

1.2. Should, in accepting ownership of a specimen, be provided with certification that the person from whom the specimen is being acquired is the legal owner with undisputed title to the specimens. In so doing the owner(s) should confirm that the specimen(s) have not been

- stolen or looted from their rightful owners or country of origin;

- obtained by violent means (including during an armed conflict in the country of origin);

- obtained by violation of the legislation of their country of origin;

- exported illegally or illicitly from their country of origin (‘host’ country);

- imported illegally or illicitly into the ‘home’ country;

1.3. Should further be assured that the specimens were collected in a responsible and humane fashion and that the material was the minimum required for the research purposes;

2. That institutes under whose auspices research which may disturb live animals, especially invasive research, is being carried out or which will be holders of such animals;

2.1. Should have an appropriate Code of Practice that addresses the context and legitimacy of its research, animal conservation and welfare, documentation and relevance to overriding, institutional aims. Such a code should be applied whether the research is being carried out in the home country or abroad;

2.2. Should recognise that an increasing number of major scientific journals have an ethical policy with respect to animal conservation and welfare, and to sociology
(examples are Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour, the Animal Behaviour Society, Oryx);

2.3. Should be assured that the research was justified, will be carried out in a responsible and humane fashion subject to its own Code of Practice, and that the material used will be the minimum required for the research purposes;

3. That field workers who will be taking specimens for retention in museums or other collections (‘collecting’ and ‘whole animal sampling’), or who will be carrying out research which may disturb live animals, especially invasive research (in the field, or while holding wild animals in captivity);

3.1. Should operate within the legal authority and policy of the host country;

3.2. Should operate under a Code of Practice in accordance with those outlined in 1 and 2 above (preferably that of their own institution); the Code of Practice applied should be the more stringent available of those from the home and host countries;

3.3. Should ensure that specimens are only collected and/or killed by the researcher when such collection is essential to the scientific integrity of the research being undertaken;

3.4. Should agree a clear policy before departure as to whether to collect, what to collect, and the destination of collected specimens; the number of specimens collected should be the absolute minimum required for research integrity;

3.5. Should, wherever possible, base research undertaken in a foreign country upon active collaboration with individuals from the host country. Such individuals may be appropriately qualified and experienced, or may be participating to enhance the capacity of scientific and technical staff in the host country;

3.6. Should carry out research in a way that respects local beliefs, economic and cultural interests, and rights;

3.7. Should communicate their results;

3.8. Should, as appropriate, include researchers from the host country as co-authors of all relevant publications, and copies of any reports and publications resulting from the research shall routinely be provided to all relevant institutions in the country where the research is being undertaken;
3.9. Must be prepared to be able to answer satisfactorily the ethical requirements for submission of papers to journals that have an ethics policy; to this end they may consider

- the justification for the research: through a cost (to the animals)/benefit analysis;

- an ethical review (be up-to-date, discuss proposals with peers, consider all options, justification, obtain relevant legal authority and adopt best practice);

- refining the project to improve welfare of each experimental animal;

- reducing the number of animals exposed (using power analysis to identify minimum requirements);

- replacing the use of wild animals where possible;

- developing a Code of Practice for each procedure.

4. That a ‘host’ country regulating activities of visitors from abroad to within their domain;

4.1. Should have established policies on the lines of 1 and 2 above, which apply to people carrying out research on bats in their own country and which can be applied to those visiting from elsewhere;

4.2. Should have a readily accessible contact point(s) for enquiries about carrying out research in its country;

4.3. May ask to see a copy of an appropriate ethics policy for any visiting scientists.

The Meeting of Parties further urges:

The Secretariat to ensure that the contact details for the national Competent Authority and Scientific Focal Point for each Party and Range State is kept up-to-date through the EUROBATS website.
4\textsuperscript{th} Meeting of the Standing Committee
15\textsuperscript{th} Meeting of the Advisory Committee
Bonn, Germany, 3 – 6 May 2010

Draft Resolution 6.6
Underground Habitats

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

Recalling Resolution 2.4, Element 2: Bat Habitats, Underground Habitats agreed at its Second Session (Bonn, July 1998);

Further recalling Resolution 3.8: Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan agreed at its Third Session (Bristol, July 2000);

Recognising the importance of underground habitats to many species of bats, both for hibernation, swarming and breeding in different parts of their ranges;

Recognising that underground habitats, including man-made habitats, are threatened by a wide variety of anthropogenic factors and that active management of such sites is often required;

Recalling Resolution 2.4: Transboundary Programme, Habitat Proposals;


Noting further the work being carried out in the framework of the EU Habitats Directive, in particular the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, and in the framework of the Bern Convention, in particular the establishment of the Emerald network;

Decides that:

1. The list of internationally important underground sites for bats identified by Parties and reviewed at the 15\textsuperscript{th} Meeting of the Advisory Committee should be published in a suitable format. This should include the name of the site, site type, its geographic location and a list of species recorded at the site, provided that the
publication of such details does not threaten the conservation of the site or the bats. The site selection criteria agreed by the Advisory Committee should be published along with the site lists.

2. The Advisory Committee begin a review process to ensure that the list of sites properly represents the diversity of sites used by bats across the area of the Agreement and properly identifies the most important underground sites for bats in this area. This review process should provide further guidance to Parties on the selection of sites and Parties should be encouraged to review the lists of sites in the light of this revised guidance. The Advisory Committee should set a timetable for this review so that it is complete by the 7th Session of the Meeting of Parties.

3. Parties should report on the conservation status of listed sites to each session of the Meeting of Parties as part of the established reporting requirements, provided that there is not a similar obligation like (e.g.) under the Habitats Directive.
Draft Resolution 6.7
Guidelines for the Prevention, Detection and Control of lethal fungal Infections in Bats

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

Recalling Article III, Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Agreement;

Noting Resolution 9.8 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species of wild Animals: “Responding to the challenge of emerging and re-emerging diseases in migratory species, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1”;

Further noting concerns expressed at the 14th Meeting of the Advisory Committee to EUROBATS (see AC14 Record, pp 44-45);

Noting that since its discovery in a single hibernaculum in New York State in 2006, a cold adapted soil fungus, subsequently described as Geomyces destructans, has been associated with the death of over one million bats with White Nose Syndrome (WNS) involving all species hibernating underground in twelve states;

Further noting that caves and mines in government control in North America have been closed in affected states and private owners have been urged to follow suit;

Noting that speleological and bat conservation organisations in North America have made their respective communities aware of the need to disinfect clothes and equipment between cave visits;

Noting that Geomyces destructans was first identified in Europe in 2009 from a single bat in Périgueux, France (and has subsequently been found in five European countries) but has not been associated with bat deaths;

Noting guidelines available for the monitoring and management of the occurrence of G. destructans [variously on the websites of USGS, BCI, BCT & EUROBATS];
Recognising that action is needed

1. To minimise the risk of the North American strain of Geomyces destructans from reaching European bat hibernacula,
2. To monitor European hibernacula for the presence of fungi growing on bats, and
3. To refer any such fungi for appropriate mycological investigation,
4. If bat deaths occur, to minimise the spread of the fungus by human agency.

Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to:

1. Ensure that the bat conservation and caving communities are aware of the threat associated with the fungal infection known as White Nose Syndrome in North America and encourage liaison between them.
2. Adopt measures to raise awareness among those visiting caves in North America of their potential to act as vectors of Geomyces destructans to Europe.
3. Raise awareness among the operators of tourist caves in Europe of the potential of those who have visited caves in North America to act as vectors of fungal infections affecting bats.
4. Encourage surveillance for the presence of fungal infections in bats.
5. Identify laboratories with facilities to identify skin fungi and refer any such fungi found on bats for identification.
6. Plan for the contingency that a lethal fungal disease becomes established in Europe, including precautionary measures to prevent its spread, such as closing to visitors caves and mines where bats hibernate.
7. To make best use of the scientific and technical findings and recommendations that can improve knowledge of lethal fungal infections and measures to prevent their spread.
Draft Resolution 6.8

Conservation and Management of critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes

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

Recalling Resolution 4.9 Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2003 – 2006), point 4: Foraging habitats; to produce a synthesis of methods used to study the critical feeding areas and commuting routes and to produce guidance for the national guidelines for bat habitat conservation;

Recognising that bats are dependent on good feeding areas near the roost especially when large numbers of bats are present;

Recognising the importance of landscape connectivity as commuting routes between roosts and feeding areas;

Recognising the need for guidance in the conservation and management of such feeding areas and commuting routes;

Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to:

1. Raise awareness of the importance of critical feeding areas and commuting routes for bats;
2. Ensure that the needs of bats are taken into account in land use and planning decisions;
3. Encourage research and monitoring to improve our understanding of the use of landscape by bats;
4. Develop appropriate national guidelines, drawing on the general guidance to be published by the Advisory Committee.

Encourages the Advisory Committee to complete their work on this important area and to publish generic guidance as soon as possible.
Draft Resolution 6.9
Monitoring of Bat Migration

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

Recalling that the Agreement was concluded under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn, 1979);

Remembering that migration is well recognised as a keystone character of European bats, not only regarding long distance migratory species but also for the role of ecological movements that are undertaken by species crossing boundaries sometimes beyond the current geographical borders of the Agreement;

Considering that an Intersessional Working Group was established at the 5th Session of the Meeting of Parties to collect information on migration of species in the range of the Agreement, submit related questionnaires to scientific focal points and collect information from the different specialists;

Noting that information about many species is still scarce and there is a necessity to determine possible migration corridors, commuting routes and ecological movements;

Remembering that migration can also be important for understanding the spread of infections that can be harmful to bats and also to humans;

Aware of the potential impact of wind farms, in particular when placed on migration routes;

Pointing out that a recent publication summarised the migration information from banding in Europe and that the recent Berlin Conference on Bat Migration documented new techniques and processes available to evaluate bat movements;

Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to:

1. Increase interest in bat migration and related studies;
2. Undertake priority studies to identify long distance migration routes with the use of modern (e.g. genetics and isotope analysis) or classical methods, and in particular provide opportunity to do them in a transboundary agreement;

3. Collect in the national reports information on migration in their country with references;

4. Increase the co-operation with bird banding organisations, both because bats can be caught during bird ringing activities and also because data on bird migration can indicate some of the migration routes of bats;

5. Recognise that many species are able to undertake long distance movements, also beyond the borders of a country and the geographical scope of the Agreement, for example Miniopterus schreibersii;

6. Consider that since the migratory routes and local movements can be heavily affected by the construction of wind farms, a detailed assessment of the presence of bats at different times of the year is required in accordance with the procedure previously proposed by the Intersessional Working Group on Wind Turbines.
The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter "the Agreement"),

Acknowledging with gratitude the support that the Agreement has received in the meanwhile nearly 20 years since it was signed — 4 December 1991 — and the steady growth by accession of new member states within this timeframe;

Recognising the success achieved by the Agreement in promoting bat conservation and protection of their habitats, combating prejudices commonly held about bats and raising public awareness, particularly through the European Bat Night and similar events;

Acknowledging that bats in other parts of the world also need protection and welcoming the support of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS) to tackle these issues;

Wishing to encourage countries in other continents to conclude similar Agreements and to support bat protection within their ranges;

Underlining in the UN year of the biodiversity that there are about 1,150 species of bats known worldwide of which 177 (15%) are threatened (vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered) with 204 species (18%) data deficient and 5 species extinct and that the most common threats are habitat fragmentation and deforestation, causing declines in populations and geographic range.

Decides:

1. To endorse the proposal of UNEP/CMS Secretariat to declare the years 2011 and 2012 "Year of the Bat" focusing 2011 on Europe and 2012 for a world-wide campaign;

2. To call upon the Parties to the Agreement to make additional efforts in the year 2011 — the year of the 20th anniversary of the Agreement — and if possible 2012
to promote bat conservation and public awareness of the problems bats are facing and the need to improve the image of bats in public awareness;

3. To urge Non-Party Range States in Europe and elsewhere to accede to the Agreement and to initiate, continue and collaborate as appropriate in conservation and public awareness campaigns helping to improve the conservation status of all bat species.

4. To request IGOs and NGOs to support the “Year of the Bat” campaign by initiating conservation and awareness campaigns helping to improve the conservation status of all bat species.

5. To dedicate the European campaign within the “Year of the Bat” to the flagship subject “Together with bats: bats are fascinating and essential neighbors; protect bats and their roosts in your house and garden”.
The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter “the Agreement”),

Referring to the Berne Convention of the European Council, which places the obligation on its members to take appropriate measures to ensure the special protection of all European bat species except Pipistrellus pipistrellus;

Referring to the Habitats Directive of the European Union, which is binding for EU Member States and includes the duty of the implementation of a strict regime of protection for all European bat species;

Noting that 23 Parties to the Agreement and 4 non-Party range states are Members of the European Union and 30 Parties to the Agreement and 9 non-Party range states are Members of the Berne Convention;

Recognising the established network of protected areas with special value for the conservation of bats, which were designated for the Emerald Network under the Berne Convention or Natura 2000 of the European Union;

Recognising the potentials of these protected areas for the conservation of Populations of bats in accordance to the Agreement if they were managed in an appropriate way;

Noting the unsatisfying results of the first assessments of the conservation status of bats made in 2007 by all EU Member States for the biogeographic regions of Europe in accordance to Article 17 of the Habitats Directive (summarised in document Inf.EUROBATS.AC13.16);

Recognising the need of internationally coordinated measures for the conservation of migratory species such as bats, because otherwise the population
status of these species will be determined in the whole range by the region with the weakest conservation regime;

Recognising that EU Member States have to meet the strict conservation targets of the Habitats Directive and Members of the Berne Convention are obliged to fulfil the aims of this Convention, although neither the Habitats Directive nor the Berne Convention offer any mechanisms for common surveillance and evaluation of scientific data, the exchange of experience from the implementation of conservation measures, or any other cooperation in bat conservation, in a similar way as the Agreement efficiently does;

Recalling Resolution 5.2 “Bat Rabies”, which urges Parties and non-Party range states to take care for people who are exposed to special risks for their health when they work with bats in the course of research, surveillance or conservation;

Recalling Resolution 5.4 “Monitoring Bats across Europe”, which supports the development of a pan-European bat monitoring programme with standardised surveillance methods as a tool for accurate assessments of the conservation status of bats at the European level;

Recalling Resolutions 4.6 and 5.5 on Guidelines for the Issue of Permits for the Capture and Study of Captured Wild Bats, which give advice how to acknowledge the protected status of bats during research, surveillance or conservation procedures;

Recalling Resolution 5.6 “Wind Turbines and Bat Populations” and Resolution 5.7 “Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with Particular Reference to Roosts in Buildings of Cultural Heritage Importance”;


Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to:

1. Raise awareness for the potential synergies of the Agreement and other European treaties for nature conservation, with the Agreement as an appropriate platform for international exchange of knowledge and experience in bat conservation, which is essential to meet the targets of the Habitats Directive and
the Berne Convention, as appropriate, in particular to reach or ensure a favourable conservation status of these migratory species in Europe;

2. Support further exchange and cooperation between bodies of the Agreement and those of other international treaties for nature conservation, in particular the Advisory Committee and the European Commission;

3. Encourage cooperation and exchange of governmental institutions dealing with nature conservation on regional, national or European level to create and take advantage of synergies of the Agreement and other international treaties for nature conservation;

4. Improve the conservation of bats by the implementation of Resolutions adopted by the Agreement and following the guidelines published by the Secretariat in any procedures for the implementation of the Berne Convention, the EU Habitats Directive and other international treaties for nature conservation.

Instructs the Advisory Committee to review the format of National Reports under the Agreement with the aims of

1. Including bat indicator statistics or data on bats which are needed to create a European bat indicator in accordance with the outcomes of the IWG on Bats as Indicators;

2. Harmonising the contents and time schedules of National Reports and updates under the Agreement with national report for other European treaties covering bats, in particular the EU Habitats Directive;

3. Encouraging non-EU Parties and non-Party Range States to assess the conservation status of their bat populations by applying the methodology, which was agreed by EU member states for the implementation of Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, in order to enable the Advisory Committee to make pan-European assessments and identify priorities for bat conservation in the whole Agreement area;

4. Reducing the work load connected to reporting in general.
Draft Resolution 6.12
Amendment to Resolution 5.6: Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

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

Noting the importance that wind energy has in the implementation of the Kyoto protocol to reduce CO$_2$ emissions in context of combating climate change;

Recalling Resolution 2.2 Consistent Monitoring Methodologies, which recommends the adoption of consistent monitoring methods for bats across Europe;

Recalling Resolution 5.6;

Recalling the Agreement’s Conservation and Management Plan 2011-2014, which recognises the importance of international information exchange and cooperation in developing monitoring strategies for bats;

Recalling further the Agreement’s Conservation and Management Plan 2011-2014, which recognises the conservation of bat habitats in all cases of land management and development especially when foraging areas or commuting routes are affected.

Noting the work of the Advisory Committee in producing Guidelines for the planning process and to assess the impacts of wind turbines on bats at a European level that were published as EUROBATS Publication Series No. 3;

Noting that the Guidelines are not always fully taken into account;

Recognising the importance of standardised methods to be able to develop effective mitigation and/or avoidance measures as well as statistically robust ways to evaluate mortality rates and their impact on bat populations;

Recognising that several bat species forage offshore and that as a result offshore wind farms may negatively affect bat populations;
Recognising also the necessity of implementing research and monitoring;

Urges Parties and Range States, if not already done so, to:

1. Raise awareness of the impacts that wind turbines might have on bat populations;
2. Raise awareness of the existence of some unsuitable habitats or sites for the construction of wind turbines at a local, regional and national scale;
3. Encourage developers of wind energy plants to become involved in research for mutual benefit;
4. Ensure that pre-construction impact assessments including surveys and post-construction monitoring are undertaken;
5. Recognise the necessity to find suitable methods for assessing bat migration corridors;
6. Develop and ensure implementation of national guidance appropriate to the local environment based on the principles in the EUROBATS Publication Series No. 3;
7. Promulgate the use of blade feathering to mitigate bat mortality.

Requests the Advisory Committee to:

1. Keep the generic guidelines updated;
2. Continue to compile relevant information.
Draft Resolution 6.13
Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management

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

Recalling Resolution 4.4 on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management;

Recognising the ecological value of forests as bat roost and foraging sites or during bat migration, which is highest in unmanaged ancient forests but can also be moderate in managed forest types;

Noting the different sensitivities of species due to variation in ecological requirements and also different approaches needed for implementation of programmes at local, regional, national or international levels;

Recognising that there is a need to improve the conservation status of bats by modifying some management practices affecting their forest habitats;

Encourages Parties and Range States to:

1. Develop their own national guidance appropriate to their bat communities, forest ecosystems and forest management practices based on the principles in the Eurobats Bats and Forestry leaflet;

2. Share best practice forestry guidance via the Eurobats website;

3. Instruct the AC to consider whether it would be timely to update the review on bats and forest management undertaken by Boye and Dietz and published as Boye, P. & Dietz, M. (2005): The development of good practice guidelines for woodland management for bats, English Nature Research Report Number 661.
The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter “the Agreement”),

Recalling Resolution No. 4.4 Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management, which directs the Advisory Committee to instigate the investigation and, if appropriate, the development of the use of bats as indicators for sustainable forestry and biodiversity in certain habitats in Europe;

Further recalling Resolution 5.4 Monitoring Bats across Europe, which recognises the possibility for bats to be indicators of environmental quality and to contribute to assessment of CBD biodiversity targets;

Further recalling Resolution 5.10 Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2007-2010);

Noting Resolution 6.17 Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2011-2014);

Recognising the government and public need for information communicating progress towards conservation targets such as halting the loss of biodiversity beyond the year 2010;

Further recognising the value of biodiversity indicators (simple and clear summary statistics) for communicating core messages of nature conservation to policy makers and public audiences;

Further recognising the profile gained for other species groups, such as birds and butterflies, through their roles as national and European indicators;

Further recognising that indicator status has stimulated additional research for the conservation of these taxa;
Further recognising the recommendation by SEBI 2010 to expand the suite of indicator taxa used to measure progress towards achieving biodiversity targets, including research needed to improve coordination and streamline international biodiversity-related indicators.

Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to:
1. Support the development of (national, regional and pan-European) biodiversity indicators for appropriate target audiences, using bat data;
2. Facilitate the incorporation of bat data within high profile multi-taxon indicators to make them more truly representative of biodiversity;
3. Support the objective of gathering the data for these indicators;
4. Forge cooperation platforms that facilitate the required data exchange;
5. Work towards the provision of standardised summary statistics from the national reports to EUROBATS.

Requests the Advisory Committee to continue to develop indicators of the activities and achievements of EUROBATS from the National Reports and their updates, or other information provided by Parties and Non-Party Range States.
4\textsuperscript{th} Meeting of the Standing Committee  
15\textsuperscript{th} Meeting of the Advisory Committee  
Bonn, Germany, 3 – 6 May 2010

Draft Resolution 6.15  
Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats

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

Recognising the potential for roads and other infrastructure projects to impact on bats, bat roosts, commuting routes and foraging habitats;

Recognising further the need for good-practice guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate negative effects on bat populations;

Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to:
1. Take bats into account during the planning, construction and operation of roads and other infrastructure projects;
2. Promote further research into the impact of new and existing roads and other infrastructure on bats and into the effectiveness of mitigation measures;
3. Develop appropriate national guidelines, drawing on the general guidance to be published by the Advisory Committee;
4. Report on their actions taken under this Resolution.

Requests the Advisory Committee to develop and publish a EUROBATS booklet highlighting the effects of roads on bats and providing guidance on minimising the impact of infrastructure projects on bats.