

7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Brussels, Belgium, 15 – 17 September 2014

Draft Resolution 7.11

Bats and Building Insulation



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

Recalling Article III of the Agreement, especially paragraphs 1 and 2;

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

Further noting that bats use a network of roosts in buildings as breeding, swarming, hibernation and transient roosts;

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

Recalling previous decisions of the Convention of Migratory Species which also include the protection of migratory bats, their roosts and foraging sites;

Recalling that the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe” (COM/2011/0571) recommends strengthening policies and activities for promoting energy efficiency in buildings, with consideration of the wide range of environmental impacts of buildings;

Recalling the EU Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and

remedying of environmental damage, which obliges EU members to take measures to prevent, mitigate and compensate significant damages to protected species;

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

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

Calls upon Parties and Non-Party Range states to:

1. Ensure that insulation projects are undertaken in compliance with national legislation, regarding bat protection and conservation and the requirement to avoid bat mortality by implementing appropriate mitigation and compensation for roost loss;
2. Take into account, when assessing the importance of individuals losses, that the cumulative impact of fatalities and loss of bat roosts in buildings can lead to detrimental effects on bat populations;
3. Resolve the conflict between insulation regulations and bat conservation;
4. Include the impact on bats in the environmental assessment of insulation programs at a strategic level;
5. Look into the problem of bat roosts and insulation in relation to privately or community owned buildings;
6. Provide appropriate awareness-raising campaigns, trainings and information materials for stakeholders involved in insulation projects about bat conservation in buildings;

Requests the Advisory Committee to develop guidelines on best practice in taking account of bats in insulation projects.