

## 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Brijuni, Croatia, 10 – 13 October 2022

### Draft Resolution 9.6: Communication, Bat Conservation and Public Health



*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;

*Recalling* Resolution 5.2 Bats and Rabies in Europe;

*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 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee to EUROBATS (see AC14 Record, p. 39);

*Recalling* the joint notification of CMS, EUROBATS and AEWA on Bats and COVID-19 (April, 2020);

*Deeply concerned* that disinformation or improper coverage in the media already led to unjustifiable culling of bats in some countries in Africa, Asia, and South America;

*Noting* that there is a need to improve communications between the bat conservation community, the media and the public on issues relating to public health;

*Requests the Advisory Committee to:*

1. Monitor the coverage of zoonotic diseases in scientific publications and associated commentaries as well as in the media so far as bats are concerned
2. Provide sound scientific response to such publications if they contain erroneous or misleading information

*Instructs the Secretariat* to make this response publicly available on its website.