

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE**First Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Bristol, 18-20 July 1995****PRESS RELEASE**

INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN BRISTOL ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS

In order to strengthen the protection of bats, a regional Agreement (the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe) has been elaborated under the Bonn Convention (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals). The first session of the Meeting of the Parties to this Agreement was hosted by the UK. The Meeting is a starting point for more actions in the field of bat conservation in Europe.

The first session of the Meeting of the Parties took place in Bristol from 18-20 July this year. The first meeting was attended by all nine Parties (Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom), and several Range States (France, Rep. of Ireland, FYR Macedonia, Rep. of Moldova, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovak Rep., Ukraine). A number of organisations, national, international, governmental and non-governmental also attended and contributed substantially to the meeting's success.

During the meeting, several resolutions were adopted on the administration and implementation of the Agreement; these included:

- 1) the establishment of a permanent Secretariat in Bonn, Germany;
- 2) the establishment of an Advisory Committee; and
- 3) resolutions promoting the implementation of a conservation and management plan.

The participants recognised the importance of international cooperation to sustain bat populations and the need for legal and scientific systems for the protection, conservation, monitoring and survey of bats and their habitat. An Action Plan was established to guide participating Parties on the actions it could be appropriate for them to take on legal protection, survey and monitoring, the conservation of roosts and foraging habitat, raising public awareness of the conservation need, the use of pesticides and international cooperation.

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