

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE

First Session of the Meeting of the Parties, Bristol: 18-20 July 1995

RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND THE LOCATION
OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

CONSIDERING the usefulness of a Secretariat for administration of the terms of the Agreement;

RECALLING the offer of the United Kingdom to host a Secretariat at its own expense for the first three years, and its acceptance by the meeting to adopt the Agreement (Geneva, 9 - 12 September 1991), as expressed in the Final Act of the Agreement, signed at Geneva 1991;

RECALLING that the Agreement entered into force on 16 January 1994;

ACKNOWLEDGING with appreciation the support given by the Government of the United Kingdom with regard to the establishment of the Interim Secretariat;

RECALLING the offer of the German Government to host the permanent Secretariat for the Agreement at the expense of the Parties;

RECALLING ALSO Resolution 2.7 of the Second Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;

ACKNOWLEDGING Resolution 4.4 Annex paragraph 19 of the Fourth Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Nairobi, 7 - 11 June 1994) that the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe should be invited to consolidate Secretariat functions in a special Agreement Unit co-located with the Secretariat of the Convention;

ACKNOWLEDGING the decision of the 13th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention (Bonn, 15 - 17 March 1995) to consult the general view of UNEP on the establishment of this Unit and to establish a small working group to have further deliberations;

DECIDES:

1. That from 1 January 1996 a permanent Secretariat be established in Bonn in co-location with the Convention Secretariat;
2. That the administrative arrangements be reviewed at the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties taking into account the decision of the Standing Committee of the Convention regarding Resolution 4.4 annex paragraph 19 (4th Meeting of the Parties, Nairobi 1994)
3. That the following terms of reference are applicable:
 - a) The Secretariat shall promote and coordinate the activities undertaken in accordance with Article III of the Agreement and shall, in close cooperation with the Advisory Committee,

provide advice and support to the Parties and their coordinating authorities. Additionally, it shall execute the decisions addressed to it by the Meeting of the Parties.

b) In particular, the Secretariat shall:

- facilitate the exchange of information and assist where appropriate with the coordination of monitoring, research and other matters, including financial support, among and between the Parties, potential Parties and those organisations, both national and international, engaged in similar activities;
- arrange and service Meetings of the Parties, and of the Advisory Committee, and notify Parties, the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Council of Europe in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, any Regional Economic Integration Organisation which has ratified the Agreement and the Advisory Committee;
- stimulate proposals for improving the effectiveness of the Agreement in close cooperation with the Advisory Committee.

c) The Secretariat shall present to each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties a summary of activities undertaken since the last Meeting of the Parties and seek guidance for future actions. A copy of this report shall be submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals for information to Parties to that Convention.

d) The working language of the Secretariat shall be English.