

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

Sofia, Bulgaria, 22 – 24 September 2003

### Secretariat Report



#### **Budget**

Reference is made to Inf.EUROBATS.MoP4.4, which is the Report on Income and Expenditure for the financial years 2001 and 2002. Inf.EUROBATS.MoP4.5 is the Audit Report for the financial year 2000. Audited Trust Fund Status Reports for the financial years 2001 and 2002 will be presented in Inf.EUROBATS.MoP4.6.

#### **National Implementation Reports**

In 2003 (as of 15 August) National Implementation Reports or Updates were received from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation and the United Kingdom.

The Secretariat will present a new synthesis of National Implementation Reports at the Meeting (Inf.EUROBATS.MoP4.9).

#### **Agreement Membership**

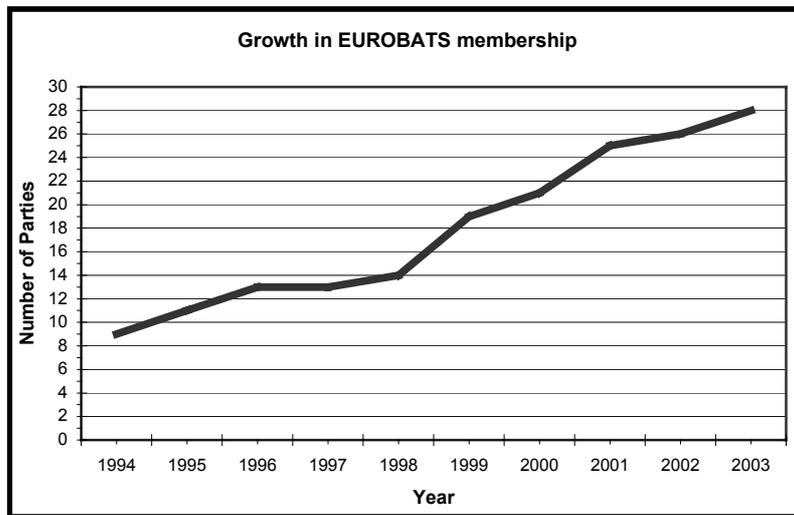
Since MoP 3 the following States have become Parties to the Agreement: In 2001 Albania, Lithuania, Malta and Moldova. In 2002 Georgia and in 2003 so far Belgium as well as Latvia.

Austria, Estonia, Italy and Slovenia have informed the Secretariat about being in the process of accession.

The Secretariat continues to give a particular focus to the Mediterranean Region in its efforts to attract new Parties.

Representatives of Non-Party Range States are requested to add to this report by giving an update on the status of their countries' preparations for acceding to the Agreement. These representatives will be asked during the Meeting to give a short report of this nature, which may also be submitted to the Meeting in writing. Should any

further information exist about other states not represented at the meeting, this would also be welcomed by the Meeting.



## Publicity

In 2001 particular efforts were made to raise public awareness at the occasion of the International Year of the Bat. The Secretariat produced posters and stickers, which were circulated all over the Agreement area and which met a very positive response.

Many Parties and Non-Party Range States produced very attractive public and professional information materials at this occasion, which partly were also circulated by the Secretariat.

In 2002 stickers with the new Agreement logo were produced and are since then being distributed all over the Agreement area. Also in 2002 the Secretariat produced a CD on which attractive songs about the need for bat conservation are combined with sounds of bats. This CD has met a very positive response and was distributed to more than 200 radio stations all over Europe.

In 2003 a new issue of the “Eurobat Chat” was published. A new leaflet about the Agreement and a redesign of the Exhibition are under preparation.

The European Bat Night takes place in at least 30 countries with a growing success. The Secretariat has redesigned the poster in such a way that it can be used also in the following years.

The EUROBATS website has been updated on a regular basis in order to become more attractive and to provide more useful information. The Secretariat will make continuing efforts for further development.

The Secretariat can also report that the Agreement excites continuing public interest resulting in requests for TV, Radio as well as Newspaper reports and interviews.

### **Special Projects**

The voluntary contribution from Belgium earmarked for the production of public awareness leaflets in seven Eastern-European countries arrived delayed in 2001. The leaflets have meanwhile been produced and are being distributed in these countries.

In 2002 a substantial voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom was received for a monitoring training project in Moldova and Romania. This project was extended to 2003 with a further voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom.

The generous yearly voluntary contribution from Germany is to a high extent used for the participation of delegates from countries with economies in transition at the Meetings of the Advisory Committee and this Meeting of Parties. The remaining funds are used for the production of publicity material.

### **Co-location of Agreement Secretariats**

The Secretariat can report continuing excellent working relationships with the UNEP/CMS, AEWA and ASCOBANS Secretariats.

The Secretariat regularly represents the Convention and the related Agreements at international conferences: E.g. Workshop on transboundary co-operation in the Danube Delta region (costs kindly covered by EU-Tacis) and upon special invitation in 2002 at the yearly conference of the umbrella organisation for environmental organisations in Austria at which a very successful presentation was given resulting in the accession of Austria to the Agreement in the close future, UNEP workshops on Environmental Conventions Environmental Conventions and the Baltic States (costs kindly covered by the CMS Secretariat), in Serbia and Montenegro (costs kindly covered by the CMS Secretariat) as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNEP meeting on the drafting of the Carpathian Convention in Liechtenstein and the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention.