

5th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 4 – 6 September 2006

Report of the Chair of the Advisory Committee



Introduction

This report summarises the activities of the Advisory Committee between the 4th and 5th Session of the Meeting of Parties. Details of the reported Advisory Committee Meetings, held in this period, are available in the respective Records of these Meetings.

9th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

The Ministry of Environment was hosting on behalf of the Lithuanian Government this Meeting that was held in Vilnius on 17-19 March 2004. Eighteen of the at that time twenty two Parties and six Non-Party Ranges-States were represented. In addition, eight NGOs and three institutions from respectively Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, and the United Kingdom were represented, and two individuals bat workers from Lithuania were also taking part in the Meeting.

Bat Rabies Workshop

On 16 May 2004, the EUROBATS Secretariat organised the European Bat Rabies Workshop that was held in Vilnius in conjunction with the 9th Meeting of the Advisory Committee. This workshop was considered to highly beneficial since the outcome of a questionnaire that was circulated to Parties and Non-Party Range-States clearly identified deficits in the handling of bat rabies cases in many European countries. This concerned the awareness of and information to bat workers, public health authorities, rabies researches and the general public. It also concerned data collection relating to testing of bats and test results, national and international reporting of bat rabies, as well as vaccination procedures. The workshop provided the first opportunity for bat workers and epidemiologist at a European level to exchange knowledge and was a starting point for international co-operation. The workshop was attended by most of the participants of the 9th Meeting of the Advisory Committee and by rabies experts from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Macedonia, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

10th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

The Meeting was hosted on behalf of the Slovakian Government by the Ministry of Environment and was held in Bratislava on 25-27 April 2005. Twenty six Parties and seven Non-Party Ranges States were represented. Ten NGOs from respectively Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania Poland, Romania, and the United Kingdom had also sent delegates.

11th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

The Meeting was held in the City of Luxembourg on 8-10 May 2006 and was hosted on behalf of the Luxembourg Government by the Administration des Eaux et Forêts with assistance of the Luxembourg Museum of Natural History. Twenty six Parties

and seven Non-Party Range-States were represented, and delegates of eleven NGOs and one university from respectively Austria, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, and the United Kingdom took also part in the Meeting. The Meeting was also attended by a representative of respectively the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON). During the Meeting the publication *Bat Migrations in Europe, A Review of Banding Data and Literature* was presented. This publication could be issued as a result of the substantial work carried out by the Advisory Committee's former Intersessional Working Group on Migration Routes of Bats in conjunction with the German evaluation project of ringing results documented by the respective bat ringing centres in Bonn and Dresden.

Intersessional Working Groups

The Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) are essential to carry forward the work of the Advisory Committee. The following Intersessional Working Groups were acting during the review period:

- IWG on the Transboundary Programme – Habitats: Data compilation
- IWG on the Geographical Scope of the Agreement
- IWG on Producing Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population Trends at Different Levels
- IWG on CBD/CMS Joint Work Programme
- IWG on Autecological Studies for Priority Species
- IWG on Protection of Overground Roosts
- IWG on the Review of Guidelines for the Issue of Permits for the Capture and Study of Captured Wild Bats
- IWG on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management
- IWG on Impact on Bat Populations of Use of Antiparasitic Drugs for Livestock
- IWG on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations
- IWG on the Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes
- IWG on Bats as Indicators

The Bat Conservation Trust and the EUROBATS Secretariat organised, with substantial financial support of UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), a workshop on Monitoring and Surveillance Guidelines and Setting up a pan-European Monitoring Scheme for Underground Sites that was held in Dorking (UK) on 4-5 April 2006. The workshop was attended by 31 participants from 15 European countries. The meeting furthered the guidelines produced by the IWG on Producing Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population. This workshop was a follow-up of the DEFRA/BCT Workshop, held in London on 15 April 2005.

Resolutions

The following Draft-Resolutions were prepared by Intersessional Working Groups or by individual members of the Advisory Committee for submission to the 5th Session of the Meeting of Parties:

- Bats and Rabies in Europe
- Amendment of the Annex to the Agreement
- Monitoring Bats across Europe
- Amendment to Resolution 4.6: Guidelines for the Issue of Permits for the Capture and Study of Captured Wild Bats
- Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with particular Reference to Roosts in Buildings of Cultural Heritage Importance
- Wind Turbines and Bat Populations
- Geographical Scope of the Agreement

Chair and Vice-Chair

At the 9th Meeting of the Advisory Committee Mr. Peter Lina (The Netherlands) and Ms. Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal) were re-elected as respectively Chair and Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee.

Contact with the Agreement Secretariat

There was a frequent mutual feedback between the Agreement Secretariat, the Chair and the Vice-Chair about current business and special issues. If it was considered necessary, the Chair and the Executive Secretary had meetings at the Agreement Secretariat.

Representation

The Chair was representing the Advisory Committee at the following meetings:
 The 27th Meeting of the Standing Committee to CMS (Bonn, 22-25 June 2004);
 The Meeting on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Bonn Convention (Berlin, 23 June 2004);
 The 7th Belgian Bat Conference (Brussels, 8 October 2004);
 The international Pond bat Meeting (Bad Segeberg, Germany, 9-10 April 2005);
 The inauguration of the UN-building (Bonn, 11 July 2006).

Peter H.C. Lina,
 Chairman of the EUROBATS Advisory Committee 2004-2006
 31 August 2006.