

5th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 4 – 6 September 2006

Secretariat Report



Staff

Following the decisions of MoP 4 Ms. Ayhan Polat entered on duty as part-time Secretary on 1 March 2005 at the GS4 level. Ms. Christine Boye was re-appointed as Administrative Assistant (part-time) and promoted to the GS5 level effective 1 October 2005. Ms. Dessislava Krueger entered on duty as Administrative Assistant (part-time) at the GS5 level effective 4 October 2005. The Executive Secretary was re-appointed and promoted to the P4 level effective 1 February 2006. Consequently the Secretariat can report that Resolution 4.1 is now fully implemented.

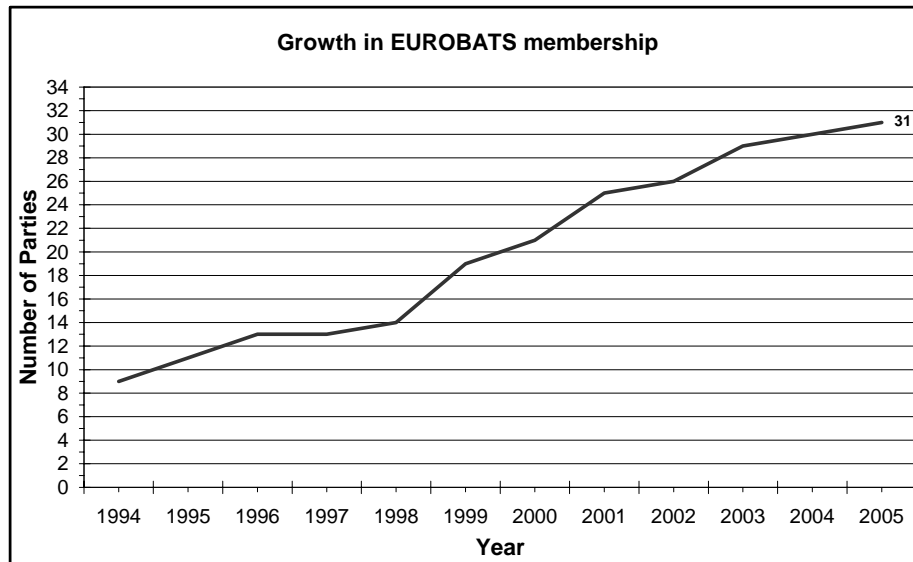
National Implementation Reports

For this 5th Session of the Meeting of Parties the mandatory triennium National Implementation Reports (Article VI of the Agreement) were received from most Parties except Bulgaria, Finland, France, Malta, Monaco, Poland and Sweden. The majority of reports were sent significantly later than the mandatory 90 days before the Meeting of Parties. It was therefore not possible for the Secretariat to prepare a new Synthesis of National Implementation Reports for this MoP.

Agreement Membership

Since the 4th Session of Parties the Secretariat was able to welcome Slovenia, Estonia and Italy as new Parties to the Agreement. The growth in membership is expected to continue with the accession of several more countries. Armenia, San Marino as well as Serbia and Montenegro are in the process of acceding. 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 contribute 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 Committee in writing. Should any further information exist about other states not represented at the meeting, this would also be welcomed by the Secretariat.



Publicity

The yearly European Bat Nights took place in more than 30 countries with an again growing success.

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.

A new leaflet about the Agreement as well as a new issue of the Eurobat Chat has been produced. Also the Agreement exhibition has been re-designed.

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

In 2003 a substantial voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom was received for a monitoring training project in Moldova and Romania, managed by the Bat Conservation Trust.

Two more substantial voluntary contributions were received from the United Kingdom and Luxembourg for the organisation of the first European Bat Rabies Workshop on 16 May 2004 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

In 2004 again a substantial voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom was received for a monitoring training project in Moldova and Romania, managed by the Bat Conservation Trust.

In 2005 the United Kingdom has funded two workshops organised by the Bat Conservation Trust. One to develop a pan-European project to monitor bat populations in underground sites in the United Kingdom and a training workshop on bat detectors and monitoring methods in Slovenia.

With a further voluntary contribution from the United Kingdom and Germany a brochure on "Bats in Forests" was published in Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, FYR Macedonia, Romania as well as in Serbia and Montenegro.

In 2006 substantial voluntary contributions were provided by the United Kingdom for monitoring projects in Lithuania and the Ukraine (under preparation), the second volume of the new EUROBATS publication series (Underground Habitats, under preparation) and a meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Monitoring Methodologies organised by the Bat Conservation Trust (held in April).

Luxembourg continues to grant an annual voluntary contribution which in 2005 and 2006 was fully used for the Meeting of the Advisory Committee.

The generous yearly voluntary contribution from Germany is used for the participation of delegates from countries with economies in transition at the Meetings of the Advisory Committee.

Co-location of Agreement Secretariats and promotion of the Agreement

The Secretariat can report a continuing excellent working relationship with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat.

In 2004 and 2005 the Secretariat was again requested to represent the Convention and the related Agreements at a number of international conferences.