On behalf of the EU Member States, the Accession Countries and the Candidate Countries present, Finland as the EU Presidency, would like to express its satisfaction on the progress made in the conservation of bats during the last three years. The Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats and its resolutions have proved to be an excellent tool in this work.

EU Member States present are grateful to the Secretary, the Advisory Committee and the working groups for their work. We would also like to thank our Slovenian hosts for this opportunity to continue our talks in this beautiful city of Ljubljana. EU hopes that the fifth Meeting of the Parties will proceed successfully and in good spirit, and that we will reach an agreement on the decisions to be taken for further successful work in bat conservation.