

5th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 4 – 6 September 2006

Resolution No. 5.7

Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance



The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter “the Agreement”),

Recalling Resolution No. 4.9, Element 3 (a) on the protection of roost sites other than underground sites;

Recognising the importance of buildings as roost site for many species of bats, both for hibernation and breeding in different parts of their ranges;

Further recognising that buildings, which contain bat roosts, may also in themselves be of built heritage importance and further recognizing that protection and restoration works may be required for such structures;

Urges the Advisory Committee to complete and publish the guidance document (now in draft form);

Urges Parties and Non-Party Range States to:

1. Establish national databases of important overground roosts;
2. Ensure that the important overground roosts they have identified are fully protected by law and where appropriate, are physically protected against unauthorised entry;
3. Establish a working relationship between the relevant cultural and natural heritage agencies, including, where appropriate, linkage between databases of bat roosts and databases of cultural heritage buildings;
4. Include in future national reports a summary of these interactions;
5. Prepare guidelines for custodians of historical buildings, on the protection of bat roosts;

6. Develop schemes, which encourage the maintenance of bat roosts in buildings of cultural heritage, including, if appropriate, grants to ensure the maintenance of bat roosts during renovation/restoration;
7. Encourage architects and engineers to incorporate a natural heritage element into their training programmes;
8. Ensure that overground roosts are managed in accordance with national nature conservation legislation and taking note of any guidelines adopted by the EUROBATS Agreement.