

9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Brijuni, Croatia, 10 – 13 October 2022

Resolution 9.6:

Communication, Bat Conservation and Public Health



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

Recalling Article III, Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Agreement;

Recalling Resolution 5.2 Bats and Rabies in Europe;

Noting the health of humans, animals and the environment are inextricably linked and the importance to take the “One Health” approach for addressing current and emerging crises;

Noting Resolution 9.8 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species of wild Animals: “Responding to the challenge of emerging and re-emerging diseases in migratory species, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1”;

Further noting concerns expressed at the 18th Meeting of the Advisory Committee to EUROBATS (see AC14 Record, p. 39);

Recalling the joint notification of CMS, EUROBATS and AEWA on Bats and COVID-19 (April, 2020);

Deeply concerned that disinformation or improper coverage in the media already led to unjustifiable culling of bats in some countries in Africa, Asia, and South America;

Noting that there is a need to improve communications between the bat conservation community, the media and the public on issues relating to public health;

Requests the Advisory Committee to:

1. Monitor and react to the erroneous coverage of zoonotic diseases in scientific publications as well as in the media and associated commentaries as far as bats are concerned
2. Provide sound scientific response to such publications if they contain erroneous or misleading information

Instructs the Secretariat to make this response publicly available on its website.