

14th Meeting of the Standing Committee
23rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tallinn, Estonia, 14 – 17 May 2018

Draft Resolution 8.9
Bats, Insulation and Lining Materials



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

Recalling Article III of the Agreement, especially paragraphs 1 and 2;

Noting that bat colonies are seriously endangered by insulation programmes which do not take adequate account of the presence of bat roosts and that some EU financed schemes to promote the installation of insulation are in conflict with policies to conserve bats;

Further noting that bats use a network of roosts in buildings as breeding, swarming, hibernation and transient roosts;

Recalling Resolution 5.7 on Guidelines for the Protection of Overground Roosts, with particular reference to roosts in buildings of cultural heritage importance, which recommends to ensure that overground roosts are managed in accordance with national nature conservation legislation and taking note of any guidelines adopted by the EUROBATS Agreement;

Recalling Resolution 8.3 on Monitoring of Daily and Seasonal Movements of Bats with regard to ensuring effective protection of migratory species and their habitats and survey on breeding and hibernation areas, migration routes and stopover sites, because species threatened by insulation include distance migratory species;

Recalling Resolution 8.5 on Conservation and Management of Important Overground Sites for Bats with regard to EUROBATS list of important overground roosts;

Recalling previous decisions of the Convention of Migratory Species which also include the protection of migratory bats, their roosts and foraging sites;

Recalling that the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the

Committee of the Regions “Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe” (COM/2011/0571) recommends strengthening policies and activities for promoting energy efficiency in buildings, with consideration of the wide range of environmental impacts of buildings;

Recalling Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings promoting the improvement of the energy performance of buildings within the Union, taking into account outdoor climatic and local conditions, as well as indoor climate requirements and cost effectiveness, especially the obligation to set and apply minimum requirements for new and existing buildings;

Recalling the EU Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage, which obliges EU members to take measures to prevent, mitigate and compensate significant damages to protected species;

Recalling the Kyoto Protocol to reduce CO₂ emissions in context of combatting climate change, that buildings are responsible for more than one third of total energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions in society, both in developed and developing countries (<http://www.unep.org/sbci/pdfs/BuildingsandCDMreporteverson.pdf>) hence insulation is important;

Recognising that insulation of buildings can cause bat fatalities and loss of roosts, which can influence bat populations;

Urges Parties and non-party Range States to:

1. Work to ensure that insulation projects are undertaken in compliance with national legislation regarding bat protection and conservation by implementing appropriate pre-insulation survey and assessment, mitigation and compensation to avoid roost loss and bat mortality;
2. Put in place mechanisms for post-insulation monitoring to ensure mitigation and compensation has been implemented, and to assess the efficacy of mitigation measures;
3. Where mitigation and compensation measures are not effective encourage the development of new approaches;
4. Take into account, when assessing the importance of individual losses, that the cumulative impact of fatalities and loss of bat roosts in buildings can lead to detrimental effects on bat populations;

5. Work to resolve any possible conflict between insulation regulations and bat conservation;
6. Include the impact on bats in the environmental assessment of insulation programs at a strategic level;
7. Recommend appropriate awareness-raising campaigns, training and information materials for public and stakeholders involved in insulation projects about bat protection in buildings;
8. Encourage the sharing of data and good practice in relation to bats and insulation;
9. Encourage the collation of standardised bat records (for example, by setting up a database), so these are easily available to bat experts and officials;
10. Direct the Advisory Committee to finalise Guidelines for Bats, Insulation and Lining Material, currently available as a draft Annex to this resolution.

Decides to repeal Resolution No. 7.11