

REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE
AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE (EUROBATS)
TO THE 23rd MEETING OF THE CMS STANDING COMMITTEE
BONN, 13-14 DECEMBER 2001

The very positive development of the Agreement has continued in 2000/2001. Albania, Croatia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova and Romania were welcomed as new Parties. The total number of Parties is 25 now. Several more countries are in the process of acceding.

The 3rd Session of the Meeting of Parties (Bristol, United Kingdom, July 2000) has adopted a number of major decisions to further strengthen and develop the Agreement:

Since 1 January 2001 EUROBATS is administered under UNEP in the newly established CMS Agreements Unit together with AEWAs and ASCOBANS. Synergies, greater efficiency through economies of scale and close co-operation are expected to arise from giving the Secretariats a common administrative framework. Another important resolution adopted in Bristol deals with an amendment of the Agreement. It was given an appendix to facilitate the addition of more bat species. The amendment also introduced a better definition of the scope of the Agreement and more expressly invites non-European Range States to accede to the Agreement. The amendment entered into force in August 2001.

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Agreement, the year 2001 was declared "International Year of the Bat". In the course of this year the Parties made additional efforts to promote bat conservation as well as public awareness and encouraged initiatives to improve the conservation of bats of all species.

For further information:

EUROBATS Secretariat
Martin-Luther-King-Str. 8
53175 Bonn, Germany
Tel.: (+49 228) 815 2420/1, fax: (+49 228) 815 2445
E-mail: eurobats@eurobats.org, website: <http://www.eurobats.org>