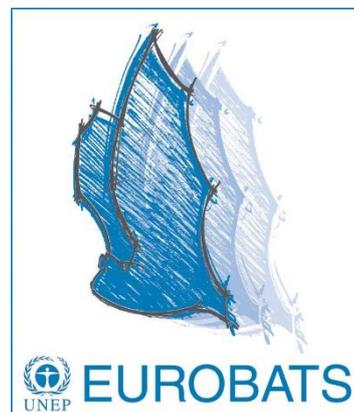


## 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties

Monte Carlo, Monaco, 8 – 10 October 2018

### Draft Resolution 8.13

#### Insect Decline as a Threat to Bat Populations in Europe



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

*Recalling* paragraph 8 of Article III of the Agreement text (“Each Party shall, wherever appropriate, consider the potential effects of pesticides on bats when assessing pesticides for use”);

*Recalling* the Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides, which aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment;

*Pointing to* Resolution 7.8 on the Conservation and Management of critical Feeding Areas, Core Areas around Colonies and Commuting Routes and its guidelines (Publication series No. xy);

*Referring to* Resolution 6.15 on the Impact on Bat Populations of the Use of Antiparasitic Drugs for Livestock and its Annex 1 regarding management recommendations;

*Concerned* about the published dramatic loss of insect biomass of up to 70% in open land in various regions in Europe;

*Noting* the adverse effects of the decline of insect diversity and abundance on bat populations through a decrease in food resources;

*Recognising* that the use of insecticides leads to direct and indirect impacts on bat populations;

*Acknowledging* that there is not sufficient scientific data available on the extent of these impacts;

*Urges Parties and non-party Range States to:*

1. Encourage and support scientific research on the impact of the insect decline on bat populations;
2. Clarify main factors causing the established loss of insect biomass;
3. Avoid the use of pesticides in and around important areas for bat conservation, particularly those problematic for bats and their food resources;
4. Ensure that bats are considered in pesticide risk assessments;
5. In general, take the precautionary approach with respect to the use of pesticides;
6. Promote awareness of the multiple ecological services provided by bats, especially for the agricultural sector, and raise awareness regarding the concerns mentioned above with land managers and other stakeholders.
7. Promote continued cooperation and collaboration between scientists, professionals, stakeholders and international bodies whose work is related to insect decline.

*Requests the Advisory Committee to:*

1. Collect relevant information on the current insect decline, and to assess its potential effects on bat populations in Europe;
2. If appropriate, develop guidelines or recommendations for the actions which are identified as the most urgent or of highest priority.