

6th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Prague, Czech Republic, 20 – 22 September 2010

Draft Resolution 6.18

Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee



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

Recalling Resolution 5.8 on the establishment of a Standing Committee (Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 2006);

Recognising that separating the specific tasks between the Standing and Advisory Committees has proven highly efficient and beneficial;

Considering the continuing usefulness of a Standing Committee to represent the Meeting of Parties between its sessions;

Commending the Standing Committee for its activities on budgetary and other administrative matters relating to the continuous implementation of the Agreement during its past quadrennial term;

1. *Adopts* the Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee attached as Annex; and
2. *Resolves* to review the Terms of Reference, in the light of their effectiveness, when the need arises.

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Annex to Resolution 6.18

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1. The Standing Committee of the Meeting of the Parties, which, on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties, and within the policy agreed by the Meeting of the Parties, shall:
 - (a) Carry out, between one meeting of the Meeting of the Parties and the next, such interim activities as may be necessary to execute the decisions of the Meeting;
 - (b) Monitor the execution of the Secretariat's budget;
 - (c) Oversee the implementation of policy by the Secretariat;
 - (d) Provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the implementation of the Agreement, on the preparation of meetings, and on any other matters brought to it by the Secretariat;
 - (e) Represent, where appropriate, the interests of the Meeting of the Parties, vis à vis the Government of the host country of the Secretariat's headquarters, UNEP and other international organisations for consideration of matters relating to the Agreement and its Secretariat;
 - (f) Perform any other function as may be entrusted to it by the Meeting of the Parties; and
 - (g) Submit through its Chair at each ordinary meeting of the Meeting of the Parties a report on its work since the previous ordinary meeting, including any recommendations concerning its role and effective operation;
 - (h) Make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration at the next meeting of the Meeting of the Parties.
2. The following principles for the functioning of the Standing Committee shall apply:
 - (a) The Committee shall consist of no more than seven Parties, and shall include a representative from the Depositary Government, the Host Government of the

Secretariat and five elected members, who shall be nominated by each Meeting of the Parties, with due regard to geographical distribution;

- (b) Parties who are not members of the Standing Committee may attend meetings, and may otherwise participate in discussions by whatever means conducted, but may not vote;
 - (c) The Committee may invite any body or organisation it considers relevant to the discharge of its functions to attend meetings, in their entirety or for particular items, as observers;
 - (d) The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure, which shall be approved by at least a two-thirds majority of the Parties;
 - (e) The Secretary for the Committee shall be provided by the Secretariat of the Agreement.
3. The Secretariat is directed to:
- (a) Inform all Parties of the date and venue of Standing Committee meetings and of other deliberations, and to ensure the circulation of all the working documents to all Parties at the same time as they are circulated to the Standing Committee for their consideration;
 - (b) Endeavour, to the extent possible, to obtain external funding for the reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of elected members from Parties with economies in transition, and for not more than one representative of such a Party at any one meeting of the Standing Committee;
 - (c) Refund to the Chairman of the Standing Committee, upon request, all reasonable and justifiable travel expenses for travel undertaken on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties or on behalf of the Secretariat.