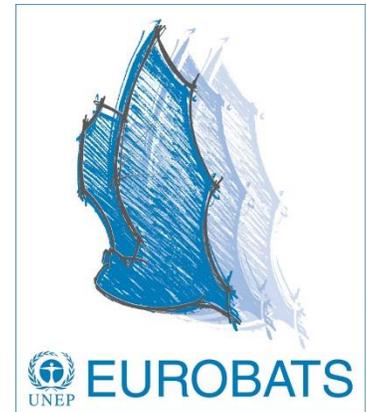


15th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Monte Carlo, Monaco, 8 – 10 October 2018

Record



1. Attendance

The list of participants is available upon request from the Secretariat.

2. Opening of the Meeting

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Andreas Streit, opened the 15th Meeting of the Standing Committee and greeted its participants. He explained that the United Kingdom and Germany continued to be ex officio members of the Standing Committee as Depositary and Host Country of the Secretariat respectively. As elected at MoP8, the other members of the Standing Committee were Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Sweden and Ukraine (not present).

3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Standing Committee members were asked to nominate the candidates for the position of the Chair and the Vice-Chair. Sweden proposed Belgium as the Chair and this was seconded by France, Bulgaria, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Mr. Panis, the representative of Belgium in the Standing Committee, explained that he could perform this task only for the following two years, as after this period he would in his ministry no longer be in charge of the matters related to EUROBATS. Sweden insisted that, since Mr. Panis did an excellent job as the Chair of the Standing Committee in the past few years, he should continue holding this position, even if this was limited to two years only. Mr. Streit explained that the position of the Chair would stay with the country, so that the successor of Mr. Panis as EUROBATS focal point would also succeed to the position of the StC-Chair as well.

The members then proceeded to the election of the Vice-Chair. Bulgaria nominated France, and this nomination was unanimously supported. Mr. François Lamarque, the representative of France in the Standing Committee, explained that the same reservation applied to him as it did to Mr. Panis: Mr. Lamarque could also perform this duty for the following two years only, as he would then retire.

4. Date and Venue of the 16th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Mr. Streit explained that the date for the next meeting of the Standing Committee would very much depend on the date for the next Advisory Committee Meeting and would have to be determined at a later stage. Regarding the possible venue for the 16th Meeting of the Standing Committee, two country representatives promised to look into the possibility of hosting it.

5. Any other business

Mr. Streit explained that, for the preparation of MoP8, it was agreed by the Standing Committee that the post occupancy of the Scientific Officer should be increased to 80 percent starting from 01.11.2017 until 31.10.2018. The increase in the post occupancy for the mentioned period resulted in an over-expenditure in the budget line for the Scientific Officer. The UNEP finance administration requested that the Standing Committee, being aware of the current budget situation, reconfirmed the decision to withdraw the necessary funds from the trust fund reserve to cover the costs for the P2 post. The decision was reconfirmed.

In light of the discussions that took place during the plenary sessions at MoP8, Belgium requested the Secretariat to start preparing a protocol which would define how different types of documents and publications could be treated and what the advantages and disadvantages of different procedures would be. The draft of this protocol would then be presented at the next Standing Committee meeting and, once agreed upon, would be put forward to the Advisory Committee. Germany suggested to consider in the protocol also what the lessons learnt were from MoP8 and what could be improved. One example of possible improvements was making the final drafts of the resolutions available earlier before adoption. Germany commented that it was aware this happened due to the very limited time available

for the discussion and adoption of draft resolutions and suggested that MoP sessions in the future should be at least half a day longer.

Sweden supported Germany's proposal. Belgium additionally suggested to have a point added to the MoP Rules of Procedure which would regulate this issue, since at the moment there was nothing in the Rules of Procedure referring to this matter, and since it was not certain whether there would be sufficient funds to prolong the next MoP. It was agreed that the Secretariat looked into the possibility of making MoP sessions half a day longer. This was to be done in close consultation with the Standing Committee, as the decision would have significant financial implications.

6. Close of the Meeting

There being no further issues, the meeting closed.