Workshop on new tools and methods - alternatives to rodenticides and environmental implications

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The authorization and evaluation of anticoagulant rodenticides for annex 1 inclusion after EG biocide directive 98/8 has revealed that most of these substances exhibit environmental properties which are undesirable or intolerable. However, from a health perspective, the need to control rats and mice with biocides in urban habitats and on farms is undisputed. Commensal rats and mice transmit infectious diseases, and rodent control is in many cases a statutory measure. Thus, from a human and animal health perspective effective rodenticides must be available.

At the moment, no alternatives to anticoagulants are on the biocide market – with the exception of chloralose, carbon dioxide, hydrogen cyanide and aluminium phosphide, all of which are only applicable under special circumstances and mostly only against specific target organisms. The development of new rodenticides is challenging, since uptake of baits is dependent on the complex social behavior of the target organisms, and their use must be safe for humans and non-target organisms.

The workshop will

- address regulatory concerns against the authorization of anticoagulants
- describe problems and successes in the development of new rodenticides
- point to possible economic hindrances

Contributions will cover

- Environmental concerns for authorization of anticoagulant rodenticides in the EU from a regulatory perspective
- Humaneness of rodenticides from a regulatory perspective
- Development of new rodenticides: research perspectives
- Development of new rodenticides: industry perspectives
- Sustainable rodent control: definition of control objectives and long term eradication