

Why we should be concerned

Reasons for control

Damage

50% of farm fires result from rats gnawing electric cables – in UK estimated costs of up to £28 m / year

Contamination

130 million people could be fed each year with the food destroyed by the world's rat population

Disease

Rats carry about 40 diseases which are transmissible to humans. For example, Schistosomiasis infects as many as 200 million people worldwide. Other diseases include plagues, Murine typhus, Salmonellosis, Leptospirosis, Trichinellosis and Rat-bite fever etc...

The Biocidal Products Directive would have led to a reduction from 955 active substances to approximately 250

The proposed Regulation Exclusion criteria (Art. 5) means

- **No Category 1A and 1B mutagens, carcinogens, reprotoxic substances**
- **No Endocrine Disruptors unless**
 - a) exposure negligible
 - b) the active substance is necessary to control a serious danger to public health
 - c) it is shown that not including the active substance in Annex I would cause disproportionate negative impacts when compared with the risk to human health or the environment arising from the use of the substance and that there are no suitable alternative substances or technologies

But – Point c shall not apply to active substances for product types 4, PT 14 to19. Rodenticides are in Product type 14.

Exemption clause of Art 5(c) would remove all anticoagulant rodenticides from the market

- They represent 95% of the market
- Remaining alternatives have limited efficacy & or use restrictions
- Additional hazard-based exclusion criteria would further reduce the public health pest control toolbox

What measures have been taken to ensure safe use?

- Human health risk assessment : at all stages of production, formulation and use, by all users in all situations, the risk is acceptable
- Environmental risk assessments : no risks to the atmosphere, to aquatic and soil organisms.
- Risk mitigation measures in place to limit primary and secondary poisoning of non-target vertebrates
- Benefits to humans and the environment of controlling rodents are substantial

From a population of 100 rats a control success of 80% would leave 20 rats. If 10 are females they may produce 80 young a month later. When added to the original survivors we would then be back up to 100 rats.

For this reason the use of anticoagulants must be defended.