Comments provided by: Finnish Commerce Federation

General information
Some alternative techniques to the anticoagulant rodenticides do exist already today that have been tested to some extent in retail premises and warehouses. Some companies have had positive experiences on electric traps on maintenance phase after the acute invasion phase is over. However, still much more experience is needed to get full confidence and understanding on their suitability in different circumstances, environments and rodent population challenges. It is not necessarily clear yet how much could it be possible to substitute chemicals with other, non-toxic alternatives, electric traps being one example).

Retailers' experience is that service providers (the professional pest control operators) also need more training on the alternative methods and techniques to be able to use them in the most appropriate way. It is also important that the operators can describe the pros and cons of the alternatives to their customers and convince them on the effectiveness of alternative methods. The choice of method(s) should be based on real understanding and facts regarding the possible options to be chosen from and the contracts transparent to the retailers.

Secondly, availability of trained professionals, on reasonable price, should be guaranteed. Recommendations and/or practical guidance on best practices should be provided to pest control operators and their customers. These should be strongly based on real life experience and facts, on those which really work in practice.

Today the situation is not such that it would be possible to switch completely from the use of anticoagulant baits to totally chemical-free pest control "over night" for many reasons. More time is needed to gain experience, develop further the techniques (incl. remote control / follow-up applications), train pest control operators etc.

Alternative Identity and Properties
Electric traps

Technical Feasibility
More experience is needed to make firm conclusions.

Economic Feasibility
No numeric information on the average investment costs available.

Hazards and Risks of the Alternative
Hygiene problems in products and extra costs to the business operators due to non-complete effect on the rodent invasion.

Availability
Partial only for the moment.

Conclusion on suitability and availability of the alternative
More experience is needed on the suitability of electric traps for varying circumstances and needs.

Other Comments
The above mentioned arguments equally apply to the other seven anticoagulants now under consultation.