



Friday, 27 March 2020
CEPA asbl – Rue du Trône 61, 1050 Ixelles - Belgium

Open Letter to the European Authorities

The ongoing, fast-evolving COVID-19 crisis represents an unprecedented challenge for the European economy, the protection of citizens' health and everyone's way of life. It is our collective responsibility to step up to this challenge and to ensure that crucial protective measures are enforced to avoid any escalation in the crisis.

Professional trained pest management plays a fundamental role in this and acts as an essential firewall to stop the escalation of COVID-19 infections. The potential consequences of restrictions on the activity of pest managers due to COVID-19 are very serious. Not only are we responsible for maintaining public hygiene standards, but pest management is also essential for other crucial professions to be able to function.

The professional pest management sector has a critical role to play in:

- **Protecting the food supply.** Contamination, food waste and disease must be minimized at all costs during this pandemic. Pest control is key to ensure rodents and other types of pests do not impact the food retail, food production and pharmaceutical supply chains.
- **Allowing doctors, nurses, midwives and care workers continue to treat people.** Hospitals and care homes will not be authorized to stay open if they are plagued with rats and mice. Disinfection and deep cleaning services of any type of public building is therefore absolutely key in the fight against COVID-19.
- **Helping to protect the most vulnerable, and those caring for them,** from further potentially deadly pathogens and disease, through reducing their exposure to disease-carrying pests.

It is important to stress that in the absence of these services there is a significant risk to public health through rodent and insect population increase, and potential complacency in disinfection services. Furthermore, constant monitoring is required to minimise this risk and also to ensure buildings stay hygienic and safe.

We therefore call on all authorities to update their guidance and explicitly allow pest management to continue during the COVID-19 crisis. We live and work in extraordinary times, and while we all have significant challenges facing us with the COVID-19 pandemic, industries like the professional trained pest manager which are vital to maintaining public health must not be forgotten. I expect that you may have many requests on this matter, and we would be ready to answer all questions that may reassure you, but I can assure you this is a critical public health issue that needs to be addressed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of all CEPA members,

Henry Mott
President
CEPA
The European Pest Management Association #TheGoodPestManager