



# Annual Work Programme 2026



# Foreword

2026 will mark a defining year for Europe's electricity and energy systems — and for DSO Entity itself. The European Union has placed grids at the heart of its energy, industrial and security agendas. From the Clean Industrial Deal, the Action Plan for Affordable Energy and the Grids Package, the message is clear: Europe's success in achieving climate neutrality and competitiveness depends on resilient, modern and interconnected networks. DSO are the core enablers of this decentral energy transition by connecting most of the renewables, facilitating new markets and services and empowering customers via energy sharing.

In this crucial moment, DSO Entity enters its fifth year of operation with a strengthened mandate, a growing membership, and an expanded role in supporting the European institutions and stakeholders. The implementation of the Grid Action Plan, the delivery of new tasks under the Electricity Market Design Reform, and the expected adoption of the Grids Package will require technical expertise, coordination and vision — qualities that define our community of our near 800 electricity DSO members across Europe.

2026 will also mark a historic step for DSO Entity with the anticipated integration of gas and hydrogen DSOs under the Regulation on the Internal Markets

for Renewable Gas, Natural Gas and Hydrogen (EU) 2024/1789. This transformation will create a sector-integrated DSO Entity, bringing together operators across all energy vectors. The result will be a stronger, more coherent voice for Europe's distribution networks — those essential actors that deliver energy to citizens and industries every day.

As the clean energy transition accelerates, our mission remains to provide practical, technical and forward-looking solutions to Europe's evolving energy related challenges. Through our Expert Groups, Task Forces and governance bodies, DSO Entity will continue to foster cooperation with ENTSO-E, ENTSO-G, ENNOH the European Commission, ACER and all institutional partners.

We are proud of the professionalism and commitment of our members, Secretariat and partners. Together, we will continue to ensure that distribution networks remain a pillar of Europe's secure, affordable and sustainable energy future. Strengthening the EU's competitiveness, bolstering system resilience, and supporting a reliable, future-proof energy system for all Europeans will remain at the core of our collective work.



Vincenzo Ranieri

President

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Peter Vermaat

Secretary General

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# 1. Introduction

*"We [ ] need to urgently modernise and invest in our infrastructure and our interconnectors. This is why we will propose a new Grids Package to strengthen our grid infrastructure and speed up permitting."*

*Ursula von der Leyen in her 2025 State of the European Union address on 10 September 2025.*

While the strategic priorities of this European Commission (2024-2029) have shifted towards a greater focus on the EU's global competitiveness and (energy) security, the emphasis on grids remains undiminished. Relevant strategic publications in 2025, such as the Clean Industrial Deal (COM/2025/85) or the Action Plan for Affordable Energy (COM/2025/79), highlighted the core role of grids in connecting renewables, enabling flexibility, facilitating electrification and, thereby, guaranteeing affordable electricity prices in the long run. The need for sufficient investments in grids was highlighted in the Affordable Energy Action Plan which stated that "Only by accelerating investments in clean energy and infrastructure [...] can we make energy affordable" (COM/2025/79). To ensure grids are fit for purpose, a grids package was announced for late 2025 to investigate the suitability of the current European legal framework for grids and potential adaptations. This shows that 2026 will be a crucial year for grids at the EU-level with several initiatives published by the end of 2025 and further publications announced and expected for 2026.

## **Delivering the Clean Industrial Deal while keeping the EU's climate objectives alive**

2026 will be a decisive year to get on the right track for reaching Europe's energy and climate objectives for 2030 while still guaranteeing a reliable and continuous flow of electricity at a competitive and affordable price for households and industries. The Grids Package will be important to provide grids with the right conditions to be a core enabler operating within a transformed European and global setting. The Iberian Peninsula incident, the increasingly challenging geopolitical situation, the war in Europe as well as extreme weather phenomena have raised the EU's awareness of the mounting physical and cyber-related

threats against the electricity infrastructure, which serves as a prerequisite for a well-functioning society and economy. Distribution and Transmission System Operators are at the forefront of this development and will be crucial to support the European Community in its efforts to master the clean energy transition in a secure and economically efficient manner. The increasing relevance of the distribution grid in all these aspects due to the significant increase of integrated decentralised energy resources (DER) shows the need for close cooperation and interaction between DSO Entity, ENTSO-E and European stakeholders.

## **DSO Entity's expected role in 2026**

Given the increased importance of distribution grids, it is expected that DSO Entity's mandated tasks and activities will continue to grow in its 5th year of existence. Tasked with the promotion of the functioning of the European electricity market and the facilitation of the energy transition, DSO Entity together with its 830 members is working daily to accomplish its mandate, on most tasks in close cooperation with ENTSO-E and TSOs. As a new body only founded in 2021, most of the groundwork for the organisation and governance, including the establishment of Expert Groups (EGs) and Task Forces (TFs), was laid down in 2022 and 2023. While 2024-25 marked an intensification and professionalisation of the work with a growing staff and active member engagement, this development is expected to further continue in 2026.

## **A fully sector-integrated DSO Entity as of mid-2026**

For another reason, 2026 will mark a special year in DSO Entity's existence with the inclusion of gas and hydrogen DSOs into its organisational structure. Following the Regulation on the internal markets for renewable and natural gas and hydrogen (2024/1789/EU)<sup>1</sup> DSO Entity was assigned to integrate additional energy vectors to create one single DSO Entity

1. Regulation (EU) 2024/1789 on the internal markets for renewable gas, natural gas and hydrogen. Available online: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1789&qid=1723213149206>

for electricity, gas and hydrogen DSOs. Since 2024 the Secretariat together with its members and the European gas associations has been working on the strategic task of amending its Statutes, updating its Rules of Procedures and financing rules, as well as publishing a Code of Conduct and a list of registered members. Since the formal process of integration is still ongoing while this AWP26 is written, this plan will only focus on the electricity sector. Once fully integrated a provisional plan for gas will be developed together with the new members for the remainder of 2026.

### **Objective and structure of the Annual Work Programme 2026 (AWP26)**

DSO Entity has a legal obligation to present each year an Annual Report, informing about the delivered mandated tasks, and an Annual Work Programme, laying out the planned activities for the next year (Electricity Market Regulation, 2019/943/EU<sup>2</sup>, Art. 55 (2d)). The Annual Work Programme 2026's (AWP26) overall objective is to meet DSO Entity's legal obligation and to keep all its members and stakeholders informed about DSO Entity's structure and governance as well as its mandated tasks and planned activities, as prescribed by the Electricity Market Regulation (2019/943/EU)<sup>3</sup> and other legislative acts.

### **Consultation process**

This AWP26 gives an overview of the expected delivery of the mandated tasks of DSO Entity in 2026, with a special focus on the work of its EGs and TFs.

## **OVERVIEW OF DSO ENTITY'S STRUCTURE**

This AWP26 gives an overview of the expected delivery of the mandated tasks of DSO Entity in 2026, with a special focus on the work of its EGs and TFs. The AWP26 is structured into four parts and provides comprehensive information about the work programmes of each EG and TF of DSO Entity

**Chapter 1** sets the scene for the expected environment in which the AWP26 will be delivered and summarises the AWP26's contents, objectives and consultation process.

**Chapter 2** gives an overview of DSO Entity's mandated tasks, governance, structure, and core principles.

**Chapter 3** describes DSO Entity's expectations of the more general, strategic European energy developments in 2026 and how they might relate to its ongoing internal work. Furthermore, horizontal aspects of the Work Programme, the integration of gas DSOs, the Knowledge Sharing Strategy and the Communication Strategy are described.

**Chapter 4** depicts the specific work priorities envisaged by all EGs and TFs, i.e. their Work Programmes and concrete deliverables.

**Chapter 5** consists of a summary and conclusions, highlighting once more DSOs' central role and vision in the energy transition.

2. European Parliament and Council Regulation (EU)2019/943 of 5 June 2019 on the internal market for electricity [2019] OJ L158/54

3. Op cite

## 2. DSO Entity's architecture: Objectives, mandated tasks, governance and guiding principles

### 2.1. BACKGROUND ON DSO ENTITY'S ESTABLISHMENT: ROLE, OBJECTIVES, AND MANDATED TASKS

#### DSOs' growing relevance in European energy policies

Within the last two decades, the scope and relevance of the European energy policy has grown immensely. Today, all DSOs are deeply affected by European legislation which serves as the basis for most of the adopted and implemented energy-related laws in the 27 Member States. Hence, European provisions are highly relevant for DSOs when performing their daily activities, no matter if they are small and local or large and transnational.

Developments in the last ten years have entailed a closer relationship between DSOs and the European institutions. The EU's decarbonisation objective leads to more decentralisation, thus, engendering an enhanced importance of the distribution grid and greater

responsibilities in strong interaction with the TSO's part of the system, but also between DSOs in countries where they operate alone at medium-voltage level. As core enablers of the clean energy transition with the integration of renewables, smart flexibility and electric vehicles to the distribution grid and as key-actors in providing households and industries with affordable and reliable energy, DSOs are central for the delivery of the EU's energy objectives: sustainability – affordability – reliability. Given this increased need to connect a growing demand, including DER/RES to the distribution level as well as the digitalisation and smartening of the grid, the role of DSOs in guaranteeing a reliable and (cyber-)resilient system, – core prerequisite for a competitive and thriving EU economy, has become even more important.

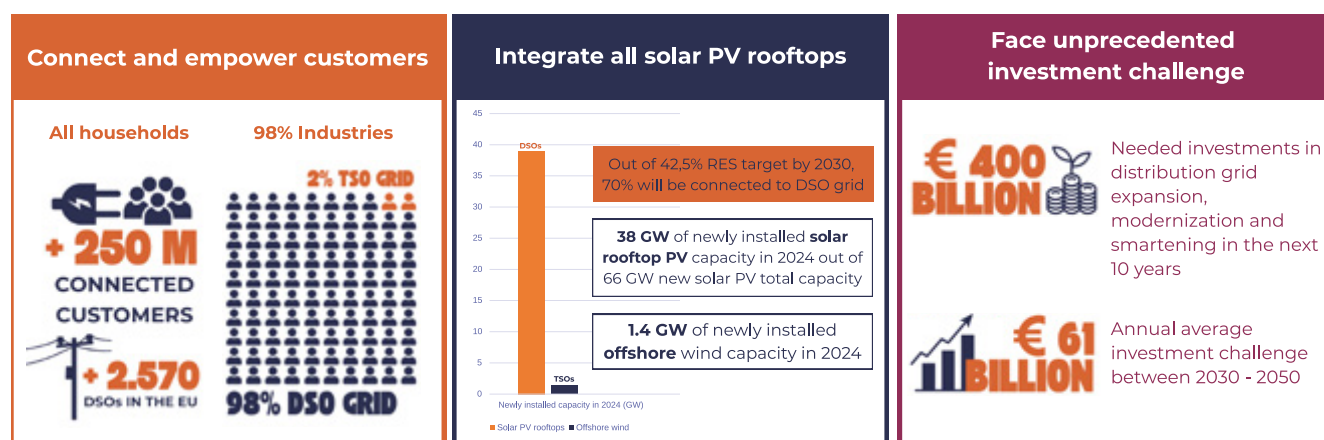


Figure 1: DSOs are key enablers of Europe's energy transition<sup>4</sup>

#### DSOs as (technical) enablers to accelerate the achievement of the EU's climate and energy objectives

Figure 1 shows how the successful implementation of the European objectives is closely interlinked with the daily (technical) work of DSOs and why the latter are vital for their achievement. High-level political objectives will only be achieved if the technical preconditions in the system and market are right. As a result, technical bodies are pivotal in enabling and facilitating the

transition. In recent years, decision-making at the European level has become more technical, which can be seen in the establishment of network codes and in general in the increase of implementing and delegated acts. This more technical-driven political environment highlights the growing relevance of technical expert bodies such as DSO Entity to help solve political problems. In the end, most political questions require technical answers.

4. Connect and empower customers: Based on the input of DSOs from 15 different Member States in a DSO Entity survey, 98% of industrial customers are connected to the European distribution grid in average in the EU DSO Entity (2025). Competitiveness Report available [online](#) & DSO Facts & Figures available [online](#). Integrate all solar PV rooftops: WindEurope (2025). 2024 Statistics & the outlook for 2025-2030 Available [online](#) & SolarPowerEurope (2025). EU Market Outlook for Solar Power 2024-2028. Available [online](#). Face unprecedented investment challenge: DSO Entity(2025). DSO Facts & Figures. Available [online](#).



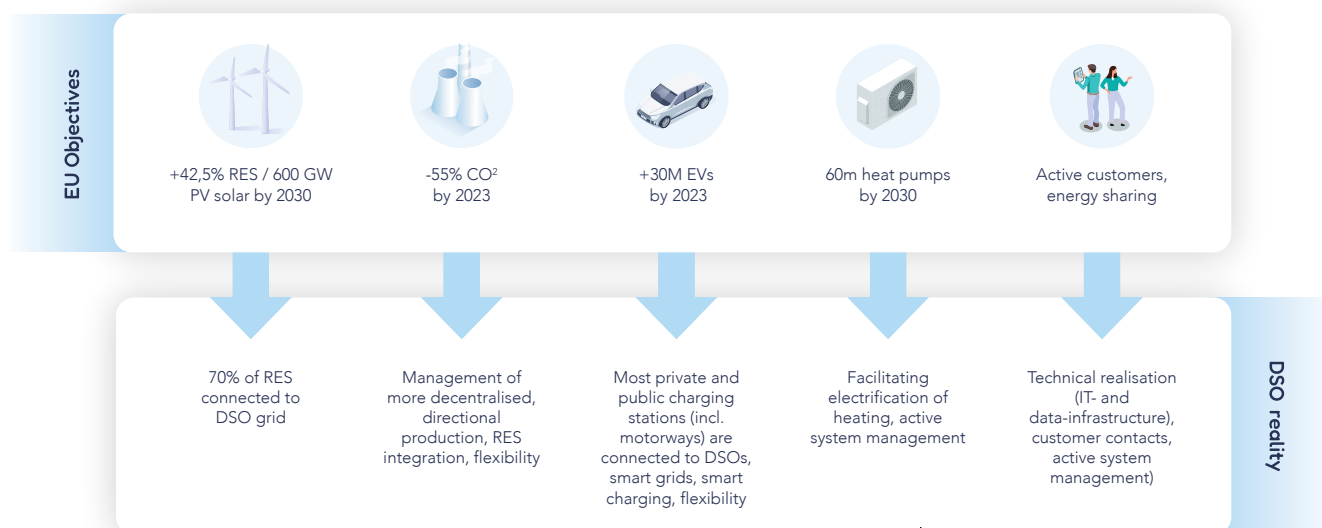


Figure 2: Impact of the EU energy and climate objectives on the distribution grid

## Network codes and DSO Entity's establishment in 2021

Given the need for common technical rules at the European level to foster the competition in the internal energy market, specific binding rules for the harmonisation of previously nationally oriented electricity markets and regulations for the operation of Europe's cross-border electricity networks were set. These so-called network codes were introduced in 2009 with the Third Energy Package together with ENTSO-E, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSO-G) and ACER's establishment. By 2017, eight electricity network codes and guidelines entered into force: three codes for grid connection (RfG, DCC, HVDC)<sup>5</sup>, three codes for markets (FCA, CACM, EB GL)<sup>6</sup> and two codes for system operation (SO GL, ER)<sup>7</sup>.

As a result of the network codes' strong cross-border aspect, DSOs were originally missing and not given an official role in the network code drafting process. With guidance of ACER and the EC, the task of drafting and implementing was carried out solely by ENTSO-E in cooperation with different stakeholders. DSOs were considered as one group among these stakeholders and their involvement was largely facilitated through the existing DSO associations at the EU level. Decarbonisation and decentralisation as well as an

increase in DER and active customers increased the relevance of network codes for DSOs and raised the question of their lack of formal representation.

The **Clean Energy Package** finally enshrined the factual importance of DSOs in the EU's energy legislation with the Electricity Market Regulation (2019/943/EU), thus **establishing DSO Entity** (formally founded in June 2021). DSO Entity has the clear mandate "to promote the completion and functioning of the internal market for electricity, and to promote optimal management and a coordinated operation of distribution and transmission systems" as defined in the Electricity Market Regulation (2019/943/EU) (Art. 52). Together with its members, and in close cooperation with ENTSO-E, DSO Entity works on the establishment of technical rules to make the EU's climate objectives a reality.

In 2021 ENTSO-E and DSO Entity signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** consolidating the cooperation between the two entities, specifically regarding the development of network codes and guidelines. In the MoU both bodies expressed "their willingness to cooperate on and ensure transparency in the development of all new network codes or guidelines, regardless of whether ENTSO-E or DSO Entity have been given the lead [...]".<sup>8</sup> This MoU is currently under joint revision and will be further developed in 2026.

5. Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631 of 14 April 2016 establishing a network code on requirements for grid connection of generators; Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/1388 of 17 August 2016 establishing a Network Code on Demand Connection; Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/1447 of 26 August 2016 establishing a network code on requirements for grid connection of high voltage direct current systems and direct current-connected power park modules

6. Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/1719 of 26 September 2016 establishing a guideline on forward capacity allocation; Commission Regulation (EU) 1222/2015 of 24 July 2015 establishing a guideline on capacity allocation and congestion management; Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2195 of 23 November 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity balancing

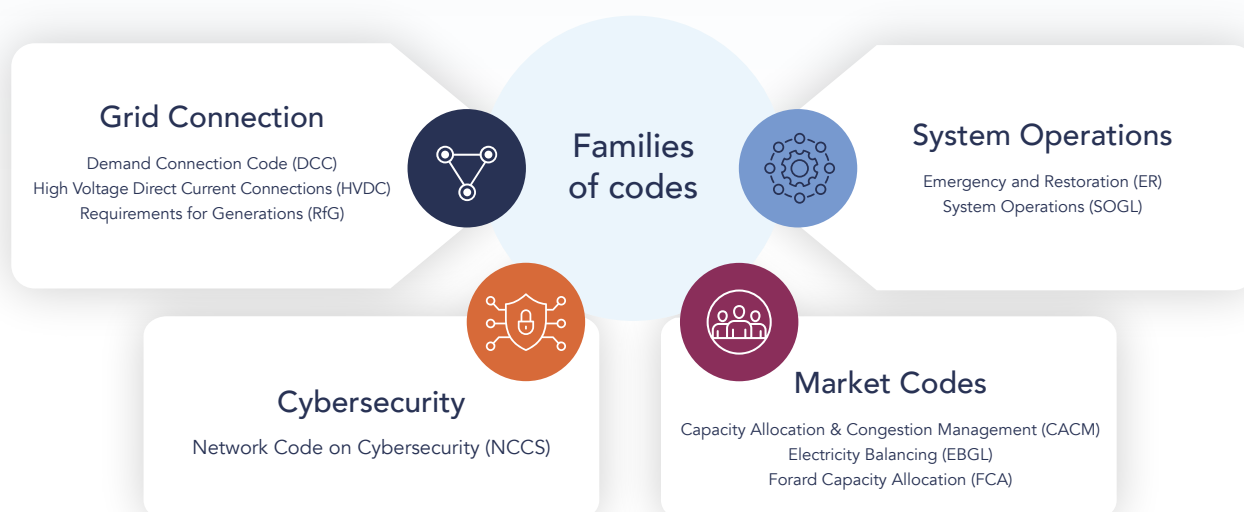
7. Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 of 2 August 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation; Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2196 of 24 November 2017 establishing a network code on electricity emergency and restoration



## INFO BOX A : Network codes

European law's peculiarity, the electricity network codes are a set of rules aiming at harmonising the EU internal electricity market by covering requirements for power generation, demand, grid connection, network operations, and the wholesale market participation. In some cases, the rules are adopted as "guidelines" rather than "network codes". Due to the nature and characteristics of the rules, both network codes and guidelines are legally binding and directly applicable to allow the implementation of the same set of rules across all Member States.

The first generation of network codes and guidelines were adopted under the Electricity Market Regulation (EC) No 714/2009 resulting in three families of codes. With the Clean Energy Package, the specific process to develop network codes and guidelines was aligned with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union specifying that some network codes and guidelines will be adopted as delegated acts and some network codes as implementing acts, both legally binding regulations. Although only a structural change at first sight, this change gives clear guidance for the development phase of the rules as delegated acts, as well as their adoption. The Clean Energy Package includes two new acts: the Network Code on Cybersecurity (NCCS) adopted on 11 March 2024<sup>9</sup>, and the Network Code on Demand Response (NCDR), currently under advanced development following a joint proposal by ENTSO-E and EU DSO Entity submitted in May 2024, with ACER's draft forwarded to the European Commission in March 2025. Both acts expand on and complement the existing families of codes.



8. Memorandum of understanding between ENTSO-E and EU DSO Entity (11 January 2022). Available online: <https://eudsoentity.eu/publications/download/10>

9. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1366 of 11 March 2024 establishing a network code on sector-specific rules for cybersecurity aspects of cross-border electricity flows

## Assigned tasks: an ever-growing mandate

According to the Electricity Market Regulation (2019/943/EU), DSO Entity is mandated to carry out several core tasks. To simplify, DSO Entity usually summarises its core tasks in three pillars which are (1) developing technical rules such as network codes and guidelines, (2) cooperating with the TSOs / ENTSO-E, and (3) identifying and sharing best practices in the form of Knowledge Sharing.



Figure 3: DSO Entity's three pillars of activities

While the Electricity Market Regulation (2019/943/EU) outlines DSO Entity's core and wide range of tasks and responsibilities, such as the development and proposal for amendments of network codes and guidelines (Art. 59-60) and the adoption of best practices on the coordinated operation and planning of transmission and distribution systems (Art. 55), DSO Entity's portfolio of responsibilities does not end there. Other legislative and non-legislative acts attribute additional tasks and mandates to DSO Entity. Table 1 ( on page 14) provides an overview of the most relevant tasks currently mandated to DSO Entity.

Recent legislative and non-legislative acts since late 2023 significantly added to DSO Entity's portfolio, as depicted in Figure 4 (on page 15), strengthening its profile and responsibilities. For instance, through new obligations in the Electricity Market Design Directive<sup>10</sup> (2024/1711/EU) and Regulation<sup>11</sup> (2024/1747/EU) in force since 16 July 2024 that assigns DSO Entity jointly with ENTSO-E the task to develop a methodology for the assessment of flexibility needs (Art. 19c). The non-legislative Grid Action Plan (COM/2023/757) published in late November 2023 assigned seven of its 14 Action Points to be delivered or supported by the DSO Entity over an 18 month period. While DSO Entity successfully delivered its assignments<sup>12</sup>, several

deliverables were transformed into permanent tasks, continuing well beyond the official due date. This approach is visible notably on topics such as network development planning, transparency of grid hosting capacities as well as for the cooperative approach for supply chains and the close engagement between the public and stakeholders via the Pact for Engagement, to which DSO Entity will keep on contributing, through good practices, new platforms for sharing knowledge and experiences from its members.

Following two years of a constant flow of new assignments, 2025 marked a slight pause, with the start of a new legislative cycle, and the renewal of European institutions. This led to the publication of several non-legislative, high-level and strategic documents that, without providing new direct assignments to DSO Entity, kept up the tendency to address the specific challenges faced by the distribution grid. The second half of the year concretised the tendency, by bringing several initiatives including the proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework, several non-binding guidelines and the publication of the Grids Package announced for November 2025, a mix of legislative and non-legislative proposals which will translate into concrete tasks over the next year.

10. Directive (EU) 2024/1711 and Regulation (EU) 2024/1747 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 as regards improving the Union's electricity market design, as well as Regulation. Available [here](#) and [here](#)

11. Op Cite.

12. DSO Entity (2025) Delivering the Grid Action Plan (GAP) – DSO Entity's role and takeaways. Available [online](#)

CROSS-CUTTING MANDATE (IN REGULATION)			
Cooperation with ENTSO-E and TSOs		Identification and sharing of best practices	
<b>Network codes (in regulation)</b>		<b>Technical regulations (IA, DA)</b>	
NC Cybersecurity ( <i>Implementation &amp; TCM development</i> )	NC Demand Response ( <i>Joint proposal submitted to ACER</i> )	Joint Working Group with ENTSO-E ( <i>IR on electricity metering and consumption data, IR on data for customer switching &amp; for DR</i> )	Participation in developing data reference models & requirements ( <i>EPBD and EMD data requirements for energy sharing and buildings</i> )
NCs Grid Connection ( <i>Amendment</i> )		<b>Tasks assigned in non-legislative acts</b>	
Development of methodology to assess flexibility needs w/ ENTSO-E ( <i>Electricity Market Regulation</i> )	Participation in TYNDP development scenarios ( <i>TEN-E Regulation</i> )	Development of Digital Twin & Smart Grid Indicators ( <i>Action Plan Digitalising the Energy System</i> )	Support of the delivery of seven of the 14 Action Points in the Grid Action Plan ( <i>EU Grid Action Plan</i> )
Integration of gas DSOs and hydrogen in DSOs in DSO Entity ( <i>Gas Market Regulation</i> )		Deliverables on Network Development Planning, inputs on innovative regulatory approaches, development of EU catalog of output indicators for smart grids ( <i>Copenhagen Forum 2024</i> )	Ad Hoc requests for inputs and/or good practices on different topics from the EC
<b>Legend</b>			
<span style="color: #8B4513;">■</span> As provided by DSO Entity's mandate ( <i>*Electricity Market Regulation (2019/943/EU)/**Electricity Market Directive (2019/944/EU)/Implementing Regulation</i> )			
<span style="color: #4682B4;">■</span> As provided by Implementing Regulations and other legislative acts under the scope of DSO Entity			
<span style="color: #A9A9A9;">■</span> As assigned by the European Commission in other non-legislative acts under the scope of DSO Entity's mandate			

Table 1 : Origins of some of DSO Entity's main mandated tasks

## Establishment of a sector-integrated DSO Entity as strategic task for 2026

One of the recent legislative acts goes beyond simply adding new tasks to DSO Entity's portfolio but aims to adapt its structure and general features. The Regulation (EU)2024/178 on the internal markets for renewable and natural gases and for hydrogen needs to be highlighted, as it provides for the integration of gas and hydrogen DSOs into DSO Entity and thus, the creation of one single DSO Entity. This assignment, as also elaborated in section 3.2, entails significant changes in DSO Entity's structure and governance, and will require additional financial and human resources to prepare and facilitate a successful integration over 2026.

Summarising, DSO Entity's mandate is geared towards supporting the EU's objectives with respect to the creation of a (cyber-)resilient, digitalised, renewable, decentralised and decarbonised energy system. This goes hand in hand with DSO Entity's mandate to participate in the development of technical rules such as network codes and guidelines, intensify the cooperation with TSOs and among DSOs to share good practices on all aspects regarding the distribution networks.

## 2.2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND EXPERT BODIES

The governance of DSO Entity relies on an engaged Board of Directors (BoD)<sup>13</sup> elected by the General Assembly and involved in regular activities in close cooperation with the EGs and TFs.

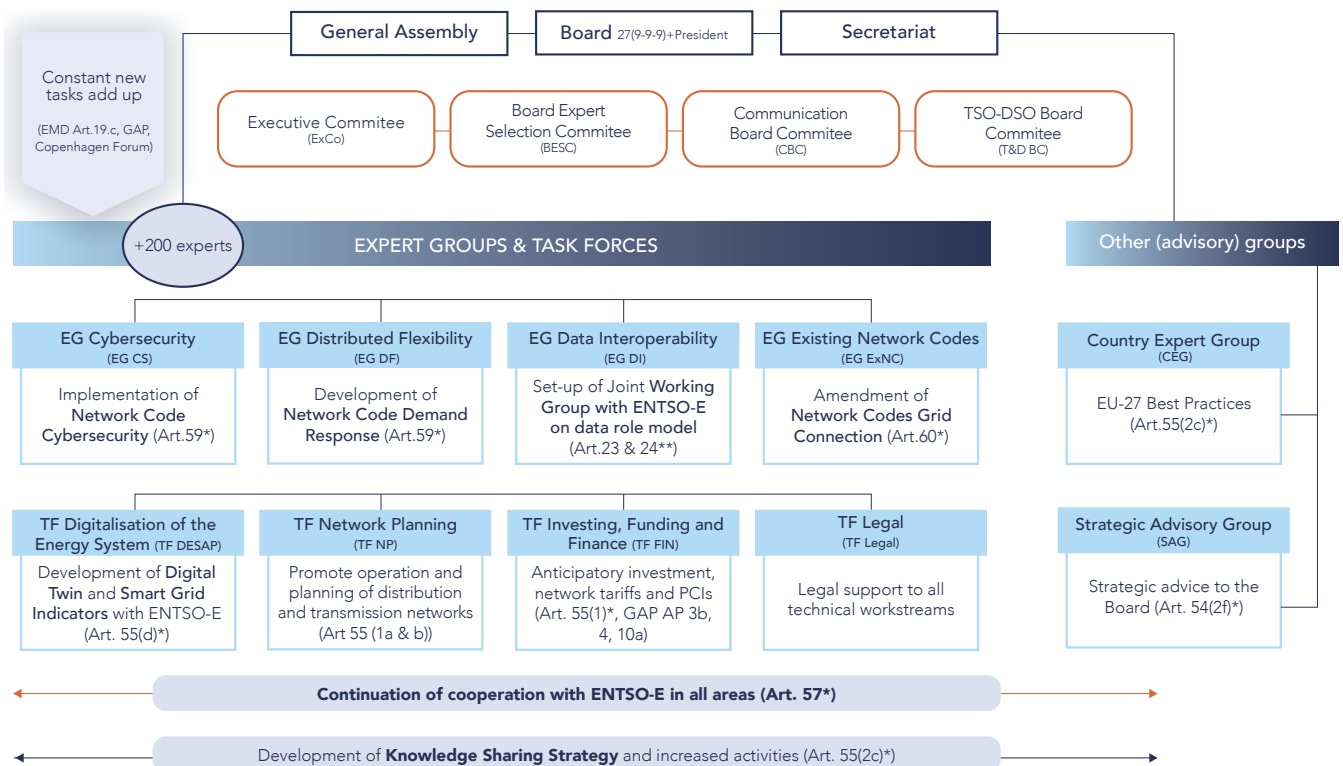
- ▶ **The Executive Committee (ExCo)**, composed of the President and the three Vice-Presidents of the BoD, provides support to the Secretariat and the BoD, when appropriate.
- ▶ **The Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)**, which guarantees cooperation with DSO associations and country representatives not represented within the BoD, is a forum for consultation and can give advice on relevant decisions and projects.
- ▶ **The Country Expert Group (CEG)**, composed of one DSO representative per Member State, is the contact body for the representatives of DSO members in all EU countries and can be consulted by the BoD or the EGs and TFs for an opinion on relevant projects or decisions.
- ▶ At the heart of DSO Entity's work are the **four Expert Groups (EGs)** and **four Task Forces (TFs)** that bring together over 200 experts.



All governance bodies contribute to ensuring a **balanced representation of the whole membership**.

In addition, **four Board Committees** advise and support DSO Entity on specific tasks: the selection of experts through the Expert Selection Board Committee (BESC), DSO Entity's relations and cooperation with ENTSO-E through the TSO-DSO Board Committee (T&D BC), Communication and Knowledge Sharing related activities through the Communication Board Committee (CBC), and eventually

governance and relevant topics through the ExCo (see above). The work of DSO Entity's members and its governance bodies are **supported daily by the Secretariat**. In 2025, the team continued growing, reaching 24 permanent employees working for dedicated departments on monitoring EU regulatory affairs, supporting and coordinating Expert Groups and Task Forces with technical and legal expertise, guaranteeing efficient corporate governance, and facilitating professional communication.



\* Electricity Market Regulation (2019/943/EU) \*\* Electricity Market Directive (2019/944/EU)

Figure 4 : DSO Entity's governance

## At DSO Entity's heart lies the work of the Expert Groups

The EGs and TFs provide the fundamental pillars of DSO Entity's work. They are responsible for the technical work involved in developing network codes and guidelines, as well as for developing technical papers on best practices and cross-sectoral matters. They work upon requests from the BoD, as well as on their own initiatives, and they can also provide advisory opinions. EGs are created and dissolved following a justified proposal of the BoD to the General Assembly, on both a permanent and temporary basis.

Their composition reflects the **technical knowledge as well as the size and geographical diversity** across the DSO members and respects their relevant expertise. The BESC is the guardian of capability and of the principle of diversity when selecting experts for EGs and TFs, while also ensuring there is a balanced representation of DSOs,

regardless of their size, country, and other relevant criteria. The EGs' core work and main tasks derive from the mandate given to DSO Entity in Article 55-56 in the Electricity Market Regulation (2019/943/EU) and other legislative and non-legislative acts. The cooperation with ENTSO-E on drafting, implementing, and monitoring the network codes and guidelines relevant to the operation and planning of distribution grids takes centre stage. However, the establishment of technical network codes is not an isolated activity but closely connected to broader European strategies and perspectives. It encompasses the digitalisation of the European economy, the creation of a common data market, the European Green Deal, and the climate neutrality objective. As a result, other important activities include the identification of best practices in areas such as network planning, the integration of Renewable Energy Sources (RES), facilitating demand side flexibility or contributing to the digitalisation of DSOs.

13. DSO Entity's Board of Directors is composed of 27 Board members and one President

## PROFILES OF THE EXPERT GROUPS AND TASK FORCES

### EXPERT GROUP Cybersecurity

#### EG CS



#### Creation Date

March 2022

#### Number of Members

30

#### Number of Countries

20

#### Scope and Objective of Activity

The Expert Group on Cybersecurity (EG CS) focuses on cooperating closely with ENTSO-E to implement and monitor the Network Code on Cybersecurity (NCCS). It plays a key role in developing Terms, Conditions, and Methodologies (TCM), along with other recommendations outlined in the NCCS, while supporting their implementation. The group also assists member states in implementing these deliverables by facilitating dedicated knowledge-sharing activities, which are developed jointly with ENTSO-E and include videos, newsletters, workshops, and other communication materials. Additionally, the Expert Group actively contributes to the European Stakeholder Committee for Cybersecurity, representing the needs and future challenges of Distribution System Operators (DSOs). Furthermore, it supports DSO Entity members in enhancing their Business Continuity Management processes.

### EXPERT GROUP Data Interoperability

#### EG DI



#### Creation Date

March 2022

#### Number of Members

29

#### Number of Countries

17

#### Scope and Objective of Activity

The European Commission has recognised data interoperability as a key driver of growth within the European Union. In the energy sector, this recognition has given rise to several initiatives that underpin the work of the Expert Group on Data Interoperability (EG DI). The primary role of EG DI is to advise and support the European Commission in developing policies and regulations that promote the interoperability of energy data. In fulfilling this role, the group is actively engaged in several key areas, including joint work with ENTSO-E, participation in the Smart Energy Experts Group (SEEG), activities related to submeters and Digitally Metered Devices (DMDs), analysis of data interoperability in the context of energy sharing, and contributions to the development of Common European Energy Data Spaces.

### EXPERT GROUP Distributed Flexibility

#### EG DF



#### Creation Date

March 2022

#### Number of Members

30

#### Number of Countries

19

#### Scope and Objective of Activity

The Expert Group on Distributed Flexibility (EG DF) aims to advise the Board in the field of distributed flexibility and to steer the Entity's activities related to this area. Its core activities include cooperating with ENTSO-E on the preparation and implementation of the DSO Entity's mandated tasks concerning distributed flexibility, such as the Network Code on Demand Response and the Methodology for analysing flexibility needs by the system operators at the national level based on EMDR. In addition, EG DF is responsible for developing technical analysis and reports to support the unlocking of distributed flexibility, as well as carrying out both internal and external communication in various formats on relevant flexibility-related matters.

### EXPERT GROUP Existing Network Codes

#### EG ExNC



#### Creation Date

March 2022

#### Number of Members

27

#### Number of Countries

17

#### Scope and Objective of Activity

The Expert Group Existing Network Codes (EG ExNC) is responsible for the technical work related to the comprehensive revision of all existing Network Codes. This includes developing proposals for updates, drafting guidelines, producing technical best practice papers, and, where relevant, collaborating with other Expert Groups (EGs), Task Forces (TFs), and ENTSO-E on cross-sectoral matters. The Expert Group operates either upon request from the Board or on its own initiative, guided by the evolving EU regulatory framework. It also provides advisory opinions and ensures close cooperation with other EGs and TFs within EU DSO Entity.

## PROFILES OF THE EXPERT GROUPS AND TASK FORCES

### TASK FORCE Digitalisation of the Energy System

#### TF DESAP



Creation Date	Number of Members	Number of Countries
October 2022	29	19

#### Scope and Objective of Activity

Task Force Digitalisation of the Energy System (TF DESAP) supports DSO Entity in advancing the digital transformation of Europe's electricity distribution networks, as mandated by the Digitalising the Energy System Action Plan (COM/2022/552) and the Grid Action Plan (COM/2023/757). Its work in 2026 will focus on developing Smart Grid Indicators with regulators and ENTSO-E, supporting Digital Twin activities through the Horizon Europe project DSO4DT, and promoting innovative technologies via the joint DSO/TSO Technopedia. Together, these activities strengthen coordination, interoperability, and knowledge sharing across Europe's evolving energy system

### TASK FORCE Investing, Funding and Finance

#### TF FIN



Creation Date	Number of Members	Number of Countries
May 2024	30	16

#### Scope and Objective of Activity

The European Commission has identified the need for a significant increase in infrastructure investment to deliver the energy transition. As a result, it has developed several initiatives that included the launch of the Grid Action Plan. To deliver the action on regulation, finance and funding in that plan, DSO Entity created Task Force Investing, Funding and Finance (TF FIN). Upon delivering actions 3.b, 4 and 9 of the Grid Action Plan, TF FIN continues to provide technical support on topics related to regulated revenues, public funding, and private financing for DSOs. To achieve these objectives, the TF will prepare the necessary working papers and organise relevant knowledge-sharing activities, also in relation to the possible tasks arising from the "Grid Package".

### TASK FORCE Legal

#### TF Legal



Creation Date	Number of Members	Number of Countries
September 2024	20	15

#### Scope and Objective of Activity

Task Force Legal (TF Legal) advises the DSO Entity's Expert Groups and Task Forces (EG/TF) on legal matters, either upon request or on its own initiative, including support in the development and implementation of EU law. It also provides guidance on the evolution of the regulatory framework, helping to identify legal concerns related to existing legislation. Additionally, the Task Force prepares legal assessments for network codes and other legislative acts in which the DSO Entity participates as a representative of Distribution System Operators (DSOs). Where necessary, it coordinates and cooperates with ENTSO-E's legal group to ensure that the DSO Entity's legal positions are effectively represented.

### TASK FORCE Network Planning

#### TF NP



Creation Date	Number of Members	Number of Countries
TF TYNDP December 2023 - renamed TF NP in January 2025	23	20

#### Scope and Objective of Activity


Task Force Network Planning (TF NP) supports DSO Entity's mandate to strengthen and coordinate DSOs' activities in network planning and system development. It focuses on advancing Distribution Network Development Plans (DNDPs), fostering effective DSO-TSO collaboration, enhancing stakeholder engagement, improving supply-chain transparency, and facilitating knowledge sharing to support a transparent, coordinated, and efficient development of Europe's electricity distribution networks.

# DSOs united in diversity

## Enablers of the energy transition




**42.5%** EU's Renewable Energy target by 2030<sup>1</sup>  
23% of RES in the EU in 2022<sup>2</sup>




**70% RES** to be connected to DSO grid by 2030

**30M** Electric Vehicles expected by 2030<sup>3</sup>  
8.6M EVs on the EU roads in 2024<sup>4</sup>

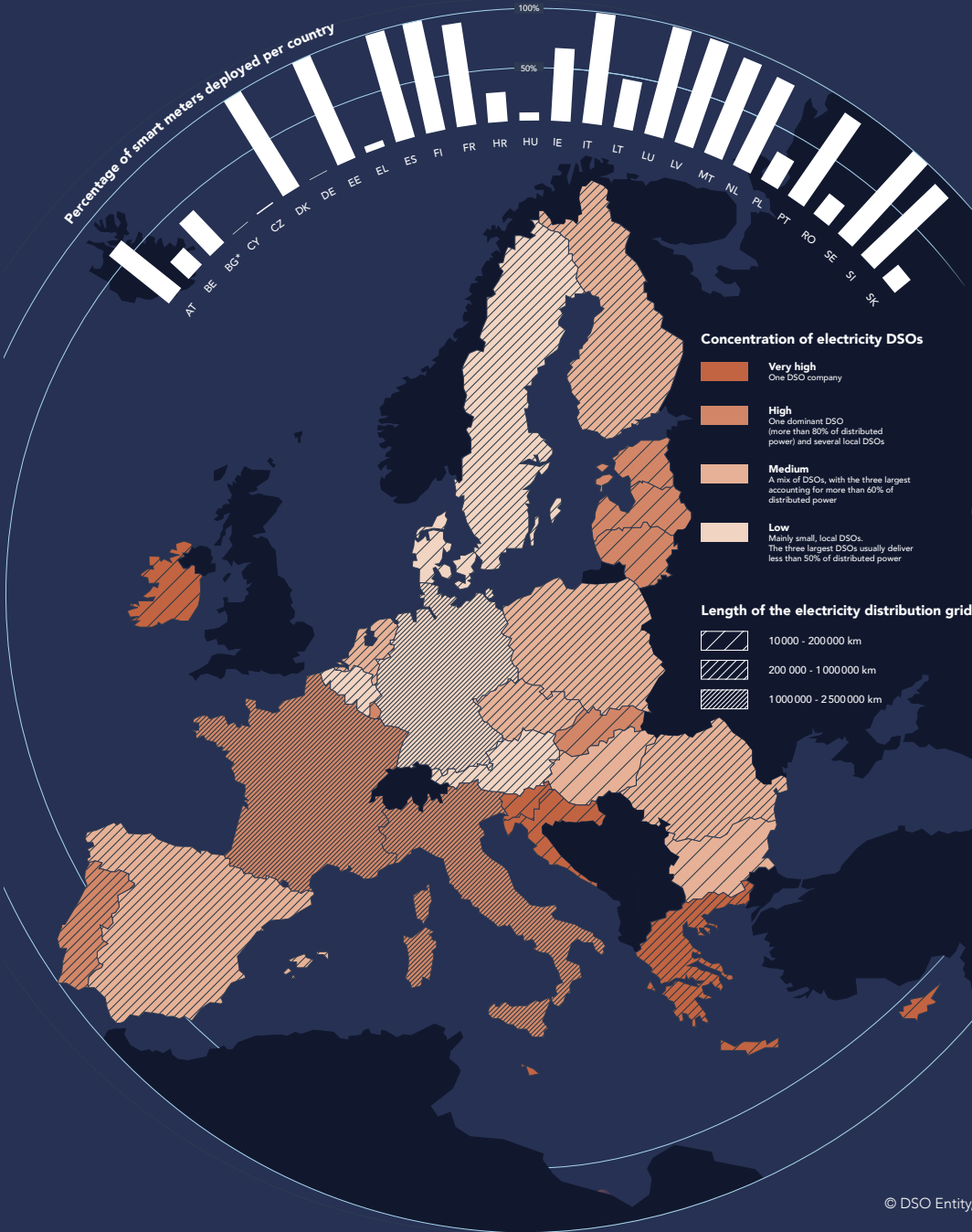
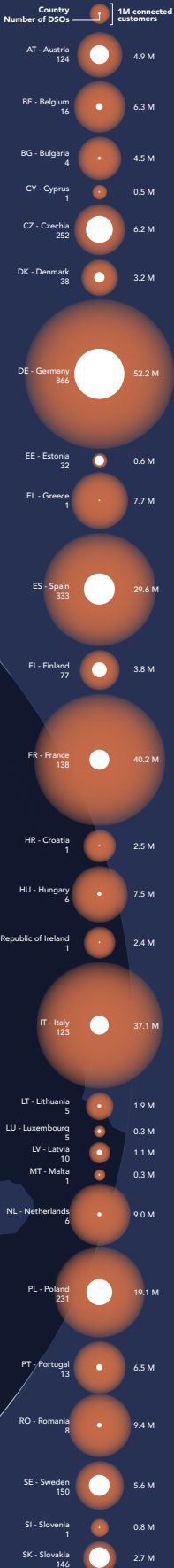


**85%** of the EV charging happening at home

**+10M** heat pumps expected by 2027<sup>5</sup>  
19.7M heat pumps installed in 2022<sup>6</sup>



**Most heat pumps** to be connected to the DSO grid





## COUNTRY EXPERT GROUP

The CEG is a unique body within DSO Entity. Part of DSO Entity's EGs, it has a **distinctiveness** resulting from its structure. The CEG constitutes a **contact body of DSO representatives from all Member States** appointed by their respective countries<sup>15</sup>. It is a body providing advice to the BoD and contributing to the delivery of DSO Entity's tasks, especially to the Knowledge Sharing pillar by providing national good practices and expertise.

### Uniqueness

- ▶ **Forum embodying the diversity of DSOs in Europe:** Gathering DSOs from all Member States to shed light on DSO diversity and providing best practices.
- ▶ **Central link between all DSOs from each country:** Connecting all DSOs from each country through their DSO national representatives to collect input from a country perspective (and not from a DSO-company perspective) and to ensure various national positions are reflected.

### Role

- ▶ **Consultative role to the BoD:** Providing opinion on relevant decisions and projects to the Board and being kept informed of relevant developments (e.g., network codes, Annual Plans, Knowledge Sharing Strategies).
- ▶ **Key role in supporting DSO Entity's Knowledge Sharing Strategy:** Providing a forum to consult, identify, collect and share differences, (similar) challenges and good practices from all 27 Member States; as well as a platform for sharing information about the diversity of DSOs in Europe.

### 2026 Roadmap

In 2026, the CEG will continue to play a key role in supporting DSO Entity's Knowledge Sharing Strategy by:

- ▶ Providing insights into DSO realities in Member States through data and sharing of good practices and experiences (e.g. contributing to feeding in the Knowledge Sharing website page launched in 2025).
- ▶ Contributing to the development of strategic messages within DSO Entity such as the annual work programme and the annual knowledge sharing strategy.
- ▶ Providing advice on the assessment of upcoming grid-relevant horizontal initiatives such as the Grids Package (e.g. grid connection, permitting, supply chains, resilience).
- ▶ Supporting the integration of gas and hydrogen DSOs into DSO Entity and CEG's structure and contributing to adapting DSO Entity's vision and mission.

15. In accordance with DSO Entity's Statutes, Article 19(6).

## 2.3. CORE PRINCIPLES AND WAY OF WORKING

DSO Entity's governance is built on **the core principle of diversity** in the three dimensions relevant for the association, geography, DSO size and type, gender – to recognise the variety of its members and guarantee the balanced representation of its entire membership in its different bodies<sup>14</sup>. To maximise the balanced participation of its members, DSO Entity strives to adopt a **platform** (Figure 5) way of working by:

- ▶ Facilitating the processes within its member community: When developing network codes and guidelines and when sharing knowledge and best practices, DSO Entity reaches out frequently to all its members, big and small, using modern Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to reduce traveling time

- ▶ Developing content from an integrated, fact-based and customer-centric approach: DSO Entity enables electricity customers to play their important role in the energy transition.
- ▶ Being open-minded, embracing necessary change, acting, and being solution-oriented: DSO Entity chooses to be transparent, to encourage maximum participation and to limit complexity, seeking input from experts and non-experts alike.

Working at the European level, DSO Entity is both open and neutral about the feasibility and proportionality of network codes and country-specific differences. The association will pursue applicability for all members, large and small, rural and urban, regional and transnational, to encourage involvement and ensure benefits for all its members based on the principle of balanced representation.

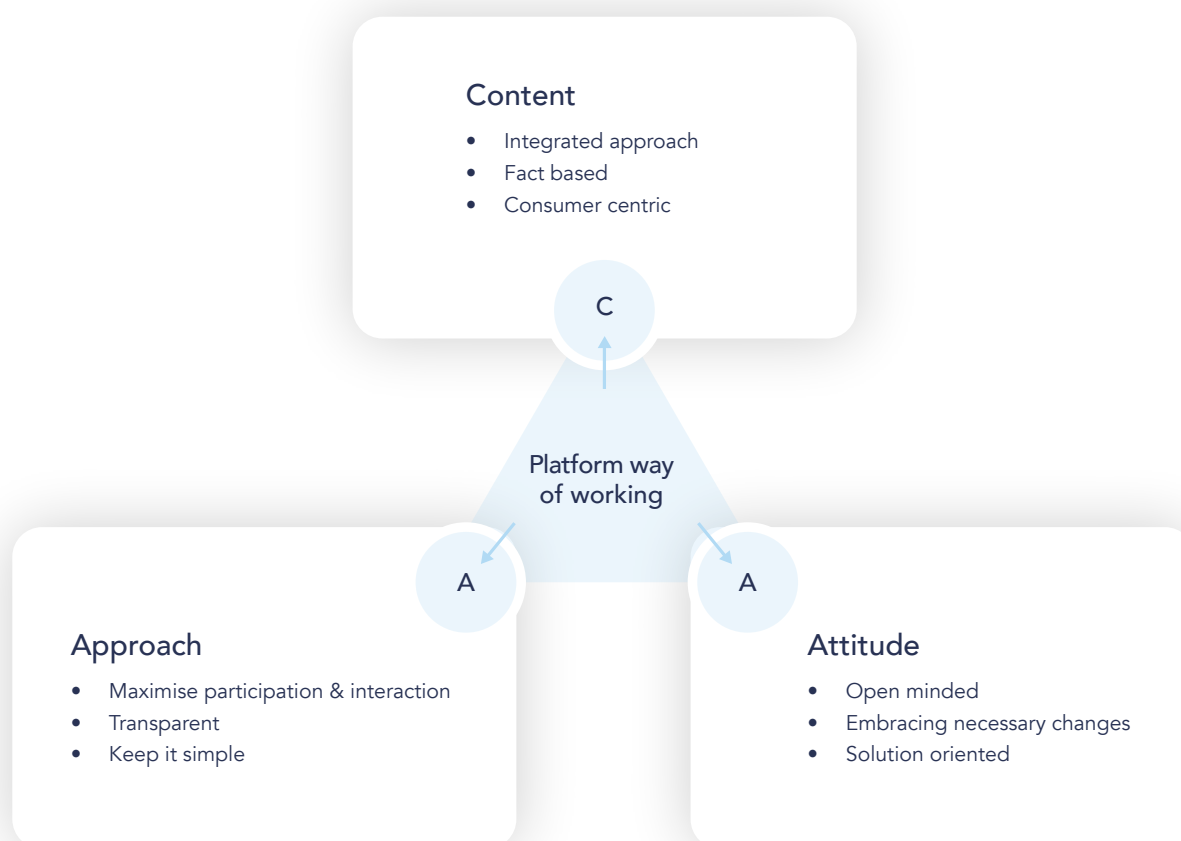


Figure 5: DSO Entity strives to work with its members through a platform way of working.

14. DSO Entity's membership is distributed among three main categories: DSO with less than 100,000 connected customers, DSOs with more than 100,000 connected customers but less than 1 million, and DSO with more than 1 million connected customers



# 3. Horizontal aspects of the Annual Work Programme 2026

## 3.1. GENERAL AND STRATEGIC EU ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS EXPECTED TO AFFECT DSO ENTITY'S WORK

The currently processed and, often, very specific and technical mandated tasks of DSO Entity cannot be seen in isolation from the more general ongoing energy developments at the EU level. As explained in Chapter 2, DSO Entity's tasks are continuously increasing through new assignments deriving from legislative and non-legislative acts of the EU institutions such as the Grid Action Plan (2023), the annual Copenhagen Infrastructure Forum Conclusions, the Electricity market design reform (2024) and the announced grids package and revision of the energy security framework for 2025/26. Therefore, DSO Entity continues to actively monitor the ongoing developments in the energy area to be internally prepared to deliver on potential new mandated tasks. 2026 will be an intensive year for grids with the grids package published in late 2025 and further grid-relevant developments announced throughout 2026.

### Grids remain high on the agenda of all three EU institutions.

Activities set and announced in 2025 made it clear that grids will remain high on the agenda of all three European institutions for the remainder of this legislative term (2024-29). This became not only apparent in strategic publications and announcements of the European Commission but also via activities initiated by the European Parliament and the Council Presidencies.

- Relevant strategic publications of the **European Commission in 2025**, such as the Clean Industrial Deal (COM/2025/85) or the Action Plan for Affordable Energy (COM/2025/79), highlighted the core role of grids in connecting renewables, enabling flexibility, facilitating electrification and, thereby, guaranteeing affordable electricity prices in the long run. The need for sufficient investments in grids was highlighted in the Affordable Energy Action Plan which stated that "only by accelerating investments in clean energy and infrastructure [...] can we make energy affordable" (COM/2025/79). To ensure grids are fit for purpose, a grids package

was announced for late 2025 to investigate the suitability of the current European legal framework for grids and to propose potential adaptations. In addition, further initiatives with relevance for grids were announced such as the revision of the European energy security framework, strategic publications for electrification and the digitalisation of the energy sector (Q1-26) as well as the simplification of energy legislation via an omnibus (Q3).

- **The European Parliament** adopted its own-initiative report "Electricity grids: the backbone of the EU Energy System" on 19 June 2025<sup>15</sup>. The 17-page report highlighted the role of grids and especially DSOs in delivering the EU's energy and climate objectives and offered targeted recommendations on investments, economic regulation, funding and financing, permitting, grid capacity, resilience, public procurement, and skills. Though non-binding, the report provided key guidance to the EC ahead of its legislative proposal and strongly underlined the relevance of electricity grids for a competitive and resilience EU.
- **The Council Presidencies** kept the focus on grids with another high-level conference organised on "Resilient EU grids: ensuring energy security and competitiveness" on 28 March by the Polish Presidency<sup>16</sup>. Also, the Presidency Conclusions on strengthening the Energy Union through reinforcing energy security<sup>17</sup> in June referred prominently to grids as a precondition to enhance energy security. The Danish presidency continued the focus on grids with discussions on how to close the gaps in Europe's energy infrastructure in their Ministerial meetings in September and held a first exchange under the EC's new Energy Union Task Force to identify critical bottlenecks holding back infrastructure development.

A consensus among the three institutions is visible regarding the central role of grids for a well-functioning European economy and the need to further improve the regulatory framework to make grids fit for purpose.

15. European Parliament (2025): Resolution on electricity grids: the backbone of the EU energy system, Brussels, 19 June 2025

16. <https://polish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/events/resilient-eu-grids/>

17. Council of the European Union (2025): Presidency conclusions on strengthening the Energy Union through reinforcing energy security, 10279/25, Brussels, 16 June 2025



## The EU's challenge for 2026: delivering the EU's climate and security objectives while keeping energy prices affordable.

While bringing down energy prices and thereby improving the competitiveness of the European industry is among the core objectives of all recent European Strategies, the need to invest in the expansion, renewal and smartening of grids is acknowledged as precondition for an attractive business location and the delivery of the EU energy objectives. The path towards the EU's Climate neutrality by 2050 was confirmed by the proposal of the EC for an intermediate climate target of 90% CO<sub>2</sub>-emission reduction by 2040<sup>18</sup> which is currently negotiated. The relevance of well-established and prepared grids for the delivery of the EU Climate Law is obvious. Without sufficient investments in grids, it will not be possible to connect the significant amount of RES on time, strengthen interconnectors and distribution grids alike to facilitate the integration of more decentralised resources, electric vehicles and electric heating solutions. These measures are not only needed to achieve the EU's climate objectives but also to strengthening its strategic independence by becoming less reliant on fossil fuels and to phase

out Russian energy imports by end 2027<sup>19</sup>. While costly first, grid investments will lead to lower energy prices in the long run by connecting cheap home-grown renewables rather than spending money for Russian gas imports.

The implementation of forward-looking regulatory frameworks that apply a proactive anticipatory investment approach are needed to equip grids with the right tools to handle the increase of connection requests for demand and production. While the high demand to connect consumers and producers to the grid in a very short time already leads to connection queues in several Member States, the regulatory frameworks are still in a transition phase not sufficiently acknowledging the investment needs of DSOs. Also, the geopolitically and economically tense situation aggravates other challenges for a fast grid-built out such as strained supply chains and lengthy procurement procedures entailing long lead times, as well as the lack of a skilled workforce (see illustration). Given these challenges the announced publication for end 2025 and throughout 2026 that intend to improve the situation for grids are welcomed and DSO Entity is committed to contributing to the implementation.

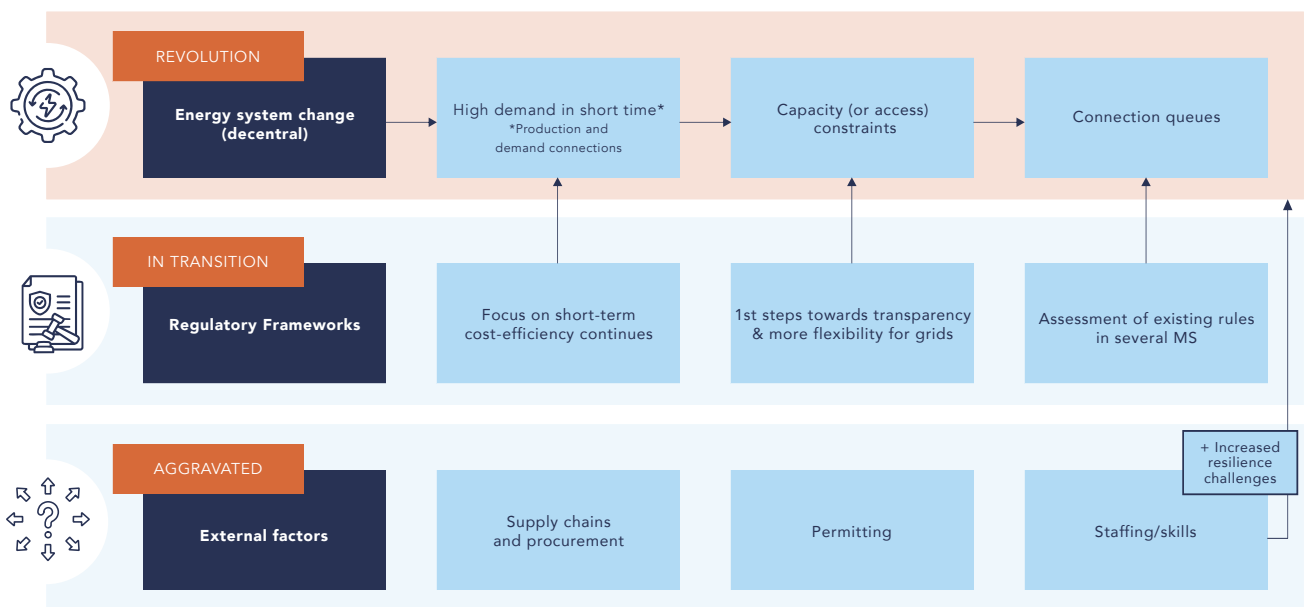


Figure 6: Urgency to adapt the existing frameworks to the new situation and tackle aggravated challenges

18. European Commission (2025): Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality ('European Climate Law'), COM(2025) 524, Brussels, 2 July 2025.

19. European Commission (2025): Proposal for a Regulation on phasing out Russian gas imports and improving monitoring of potential energy dependencies, COM(2025) 828 final, Brussels, 17 June 2025

## Expected regulatory activities for energy grids in 2026 and the role of DSOs Entity.

The greater focus on (energy) prices and costs, as well as security and resilience aspects, are visible in the concrete announcements regarding the European Commission's future publications in the next years and will be relevant for DSO Entity's work:

- ▶ **The Grids Package (Q4-25):** The package will review the existing legal framework for grids to see if it is fit for purpose. It will be an opportunity to address some of the outstanding grid needs and challenges in the long term in the form of legislative and non-legislative proposals. It is expected to notably "[...] simplify the trans-European energy networks TEN-E Regulation (2022/869/EU)<sup>20</sup>, ensure cross-border integrated planning and delivery of projects, especially on interconnectors, streamline permitting, enhance distribution grid planning, boost digitalisation and innovation as well as increase visibility of manufacturing supply needs" (COM/2025/79). Further, the Grids Package will include Guidelines for Grid Connections and is expected to build on deliverables from the Grid Action Plan (see illustration) and the Copenhagen Infrastructure Forum. These topics are within DSO Entity's core mandated tasks and activities of its EGs and TFs such as network development planning, transparency into grid hosting capacities, funding and financing or supply chains. Several EGs and TFs including the CEG are involved in activities related to these topics.
- ▶ **An Energy Security Package including the revision of the energy security framework (Q1-26):** It is expected that the review of the security framework will pay attention to emerging risks,

such as climate change impacts, cyber-attacks and critical infrastructure. More concretely, the package will include a revision of the Risk Preparedness Regulation<sup>21</sup> and the Gas Security of Supply Regulation<sup>22</sup> and the Gas Storage Regulation<sup>23</sup>. These publications might include lessons learned from the Iberian Peninsula incident and potentially also look into an increased role of DSOs for the security of the energy system in the future. Given the relevance of a resilient energy system and the increasing role of DSOs in supporting TSOs in guaranteeing security of supply DSO Entity has been closely following this topic since the development of its technical vision and will continue to closely monitor all developments via different EGs including EG Cybersecurity but also the CEG.

- ▶ **Initiatives to further smarten and digitalise the energy system (Q1-26):** Following the publication of the EU data strategy (Q4-25) additional initiatives throughout 2026 to digitalise and smarten electricity grids were announced such as a Strategy for the digitalization of the energy system and the usage of AI. These areas and initiatives are closely followed and supported by EG DI and TF DESAP within DSO Entity.
- ▶ **Investments, Funding and Financing incl. the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)<sup>24</sup>:** The proposal of the EC on the MFF and the negotiations will be closely monitored. Further, the national implementation of the Guidelines of the EC on anticipatory investments<sup>25</sup> and on future proof network charges<sup>26</sup> as well as relevant developments regarding regulatory frameworks will be monitored. These activities are within the core of the work of TF FIN but often also supported by other groups such as EG DF or the CEG.

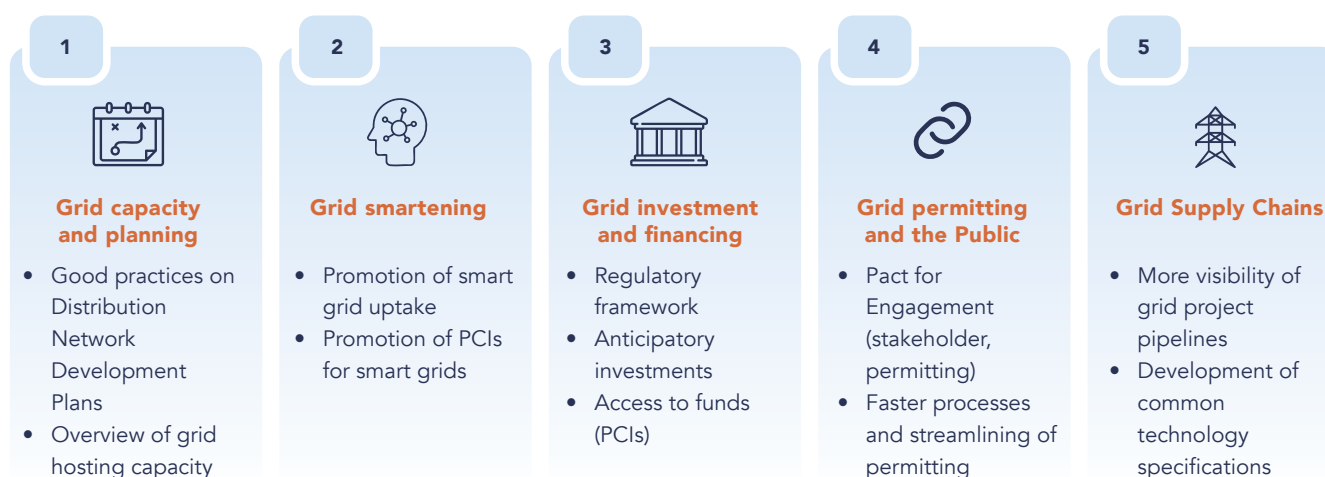


Figure 7: High level overview of the GAP measures and actions specifically related to DSOs

- **The revision of the public procurement framework (Q2-26) and supply chains:** All announced initiatives regarding improvements for supply chains for grid operators will be closely followed by DSO Entity's dedicated sub-group on supply chains within TF DNDP and the CEG. This includes announcements such as the publication of a grid manufacturing package (Q1-26) or the revision of the public procurement Directives (Q2-26).
- **Supporting national implementation:** In addition to these new proposals at the EU level, the EC will closely monitor the national implementation of the Fit for 55 package, REPowerEU and other related files. All the set targets and requirements will need to be transferred into concrete measures on the ground and implemented at the local level. Thus, attention will turn to the implementation of the

measures, and how to ensure all the right conditions are set to guarantee that Europe can deliver to its targets. This is where DSOs play a crucial role as technical enablers of most of the new targets.

This overview of intended initiatives shows the magnitude of activities that will come towards DSOs and DSO Entity. It is apparent that the activities and focus of DSO Entity's EG/TFs tune well into these new initiatives and will continue to support the European institutions on request regarding the development and/or execution of new grid-related activities. Throughout 2026 DSO Entity will continue to closely monitor the unfolding of these more general European energy developments to be ready to provide advice upon request and support the European institutions in their attempt to deliver a clean energy transition at competitive prices while keeping the lights on.

### 3.2. OVERVIEW OF HORIZONTAL WORK PRIORITIES 2026 AND THE INTEGRATION OF GAS DSOs

#### Continuation of the core work in three pillars

In 2026, DSO Entity will continue its work along its three core pillars: 1) the development of technical rules such as network codes, 2) the close cooperation with ENTSO-E, and 3) the sharing of good practices via Knowledge Sharing.

The first and largest pillar is primarily taken care of in the EGs and TFs that work closely together with ENTSO-E (second pillar) in most of the workstreams. The third pillar of Knowledge Sharing also builds largely on the contributions of EGs and TFs, but has an additional horizontal, strategic dimension. This dimension is especially fed by the CEG and the CBC, which are actively involved in the development

and execution of the strategic Knowledge Sharing Strategy by sharing data, good practices and working on horizontal workstreams not covered by any EG or TF, such as permitting, public engagement, grid connection challenges or supply chains.

Apart from the three pillars, DSO Entity will continue to work on one special project that started already in 2024. The integration of gas and hydrogen DSOs into DSO Entity's structure and governance. In this respect 2026 will be an intensive year encompassing the adoption of new statutes, the first election of a sector-integrated Board and the facilitation of organisational adaptations such as the creation of new EG/TF for gas topics.

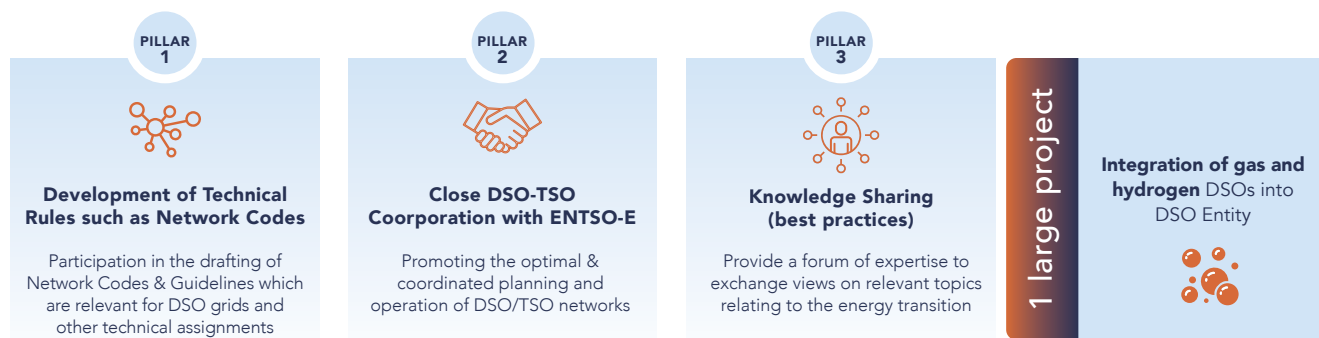


Figure 8: Core activities in 2026– three pillars and one project

## The integration of gas DSOs into DSO Entity

The Decarbonised Gas and Hydrogen Market Regulation (2024/1789) sets up a framework for integrating gas and hydrogen DSOs within DSO Entity (Art. 39-41). This means that DSO Entity will be the sole DSO organisation developing Network Codes together with its respective TSO counterparts ENTSO-E (electricity), ENTSO-G (gas) and the newly created ENNOH (hydrogen).

The enlarged membership and tasks will strengthen the visibility of DSOs on European level to the benefit of all DSOs. Thus, this development is highly relevant for the more than [1.100] DSOs in the EU that distribute gas to more than [90] million customers on a daily basis. Part of these are dual grid companies that already are a member of DSO Entity in their electricity grid operations.

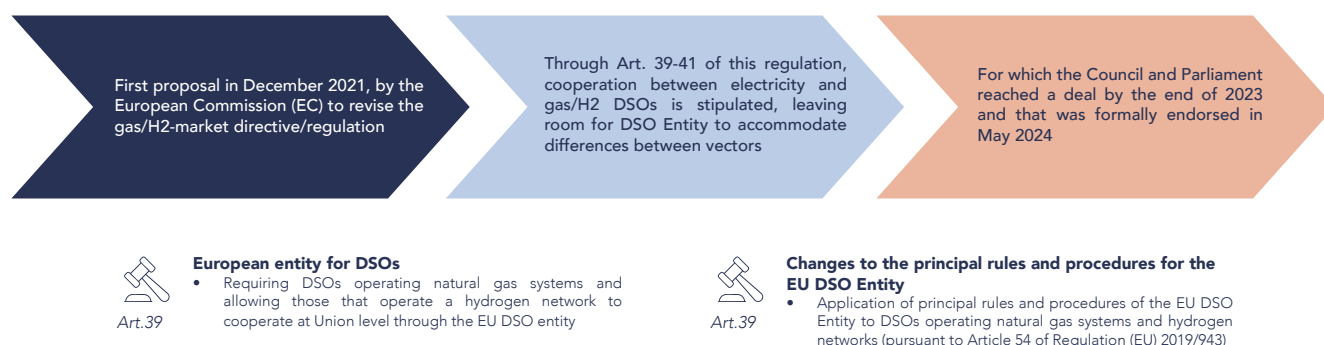


Figure 9: The new gas regulation stipulates the cooperation of gas/H2 DSOs through EU DSO Entity

## Building a new joint governance and structure

Already before the adoption of the Gas Regulation, DSO Entity's Board started discussing the integration of gas and hydrogen DSOs in early 2024. A working structure was established for joint preparation of the future structure, in close cooperation with various associations: GEODE, CEDEC, Eurogas and GD4S.

The drafting efforts included updating statutes, proposing rules for fair and balanced representation, and creating operational budgets. By involving experts and stakeholder representatives, the process aimed to balance compliance with efficiency. After extensive dialogue sessions and negotiations, the amended draft statutes were approved by the Board and the General Assembly in October. After that, the statutes were submitted to ACER and to the European Commission for their review and feedback, which is anticipated to be ready in the coming months.

This new structure, in fact, creates a fundamentally revised governance model for DSO Entity in order

to accommodate the challenge that comes with the integration of gas and hydrogen DSOs. On the one hand, this challenge is related to the **wide diversity** of the extended DSO-community in size, geographic background and type of DSO (single E or G or dual grid). On the other hand, the **substantial extension** with some 400 members (+ 50%) and some 87 million connections (+ 30%) implies focused efforts on structuring and operating the extended member base. Thirdly, the **level and complexity of coordination** substantially increase, both internally and externally (like with ENTSO-E, ENTSO-G and ENNOH), requiring higher standards for example Board and Secretariat. The new structure is meant to comprise an extension of the Board, a specific way for decision making between vectors if no consensus can be achieved, the establishment of Councils for both electricity and gas to prepare decision making in the Board and the integration of gas representatives in SAG, CEG and technical Expert Groups.

20. Regulation (EU) 2022/869 of 30 May 2022 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, amending Regulations (EC) No 715/2009, (EU) 2019/942 and (EU) 2019/943 and Directives 2009/73/EC and (EU) 2019/944, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 347/2013  
 21. Regulation (EU) 2019/941 of 5 June 2019 on risk-preparedness in the electricity sector and repealing Directive 2005/89/EC, OJ L 158, 14.6.2019  
 22. Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 of 25 October 2017 concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply and repealing Regulation (EU) No 994/2010, OJ L 280, 28.10.2017  
 23. Regulation (EU) 2022/1032 of 29 June 2022 amending Regulations (EU) 2017/1938 and (EC) No 715/2009 with regard to gas storage, OJ L 173, 30.6.2022, p. 17–29  
 24. European Commission (2025): Communication - A dynamic EU budget for the priorities of the future: The Multiannual Financial Framework 2028–2034, COM(2025) 570 final, Brussels, 17 July  
 25. European Commission (2025): Commission Notice on a guidance on anticipatory investments for developing forward-looking electricity networks. C(2025) 3291  
 26. European Commission (2025): Guidelines on future proof network charges for reduced energy system costs. C (2025) 4010.



## Launch and development of work programme for gas 2026

The official integration is anticipated for Q1/2026 and the operational launch is foreseen in Q2/2026. By this point, the integrated DSO Entity will include both electricity and gas members, with a strong governance structure for representation and decision making, clear roles, an extended team at the Secretariat and a unified

approach to addressing Europe's energy transition challenges. In addition to the actual integration, that will be managed like a project, a (joint) work programme will be prepared to plan for the gas-related activities in 2026. In any case, it is foreseen that these will include work on new or existing network codes for gas/hydrogen, where appropriate in close cooperation with ENTSO-G and ENNOH.



Figure 10: A sector-integrated DSO Entity will support all DSOs to further enhance their value to society

### 3.3. KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY 2026

As mandated by the Electricity Market Regulation (2019/943/EU), DSO Entity works with its members and partners to **identify, collect and disseminate good practices** related to grid topics and its core areas of expertise. In light of the considerable diversity of the more than 2,500 DSOs operating in Europe, the sharing of knowledge and good practices plays an essential role in achieving Europe's energy transition. Knowledge Sharing, as DSO Entity's third pillar, is especially relevant to provide insights on DSOs diversity as well as their role and relevance in the energy transition as well as for the EU's competitiveness and energy security.

**In 2026, DSO Entity will implement its fourth Knowledge Sharing Strategy** in a time of strong focus on the implementation of the existing European legislation and development of the Grids Package. DSO Entity's mission, as semi-institutional body, will be essential in providing solid expertise and knowledge on distribution grids, their challenges and needs, as well as in sharing good practices from DSOs on the progress achieved on the ground to reach the EU's energy targets.

Furthermore, Knowledge Sharing will continue to be key when completing the ongoing permanent tasks derived from the delivered Grid Action Plan and follow-up assignments from the Copenhagen Infrastructure Forum, but also keep building on the Technical Vision to further develop expertise on relevant topics. DSO Entity is committed to playing an active role in the delivery of the Grids Package in close collaboration with the EC, ACER and ENTSO-E in 2026 building on the success of the aligned collaboration initiated under the Grid Action Plan. All above activities will contribute to strengthening DSO Entity as the European platform of expertise on and for DSOs with Knowledge Sharing as a core tool to show the benefits of DSO Entity's technical work for the wider EU energy

framework and ongoing discussions on the future of the energy system.

Eventually, **2026 will be a special year for DSO Entity with the integration of gas and hydrogen DSOs** within its membership expected in the first half of the year and as described in chapter 3.2. The membership is expected to grow from the existing 830+ electricity DSO members to 1.200+ DSO members covering both gas and electricity vectors and covering around 337 million connections (i.e. nearly 100% of all EU energy connections). This structural change will require some transition period for the association and will also have an impact on the Knowledge Sharing Strategy for 2026. DSO Entity will need to adapt its vision and mission to reflect and fairly represent its full membership and therefore the 2026 Knowledge Sharing Strategy will include provisions to develop a joint strategic storyline as of mid-2026.

**The Knowledge Sharing Strategy 2026 will focus on three main tracks (see Figure X):**

- ▶ **The monitoring of the Grids Package and active engagement where needed** to support the implementation of its legislative and non-legislative proposals.
- ▶ **The pursuit and expansion of the work done in the Technical Vision** to keep raising awareness on DSOs relevance for the EU's green transition, security and competitiveness and **further develop selected topics** (e.g. resilience, digitalization).
- ▶ **The adaptation of DSO Entity's strategic vision and as an integrated organisation** representing all DSOs in the EU – electricity, gas and hydrogen.

All tracks contribute to the broader mission of developing DSO Entity into a **Platform of Expertise on and for all DSOs in Europe**.

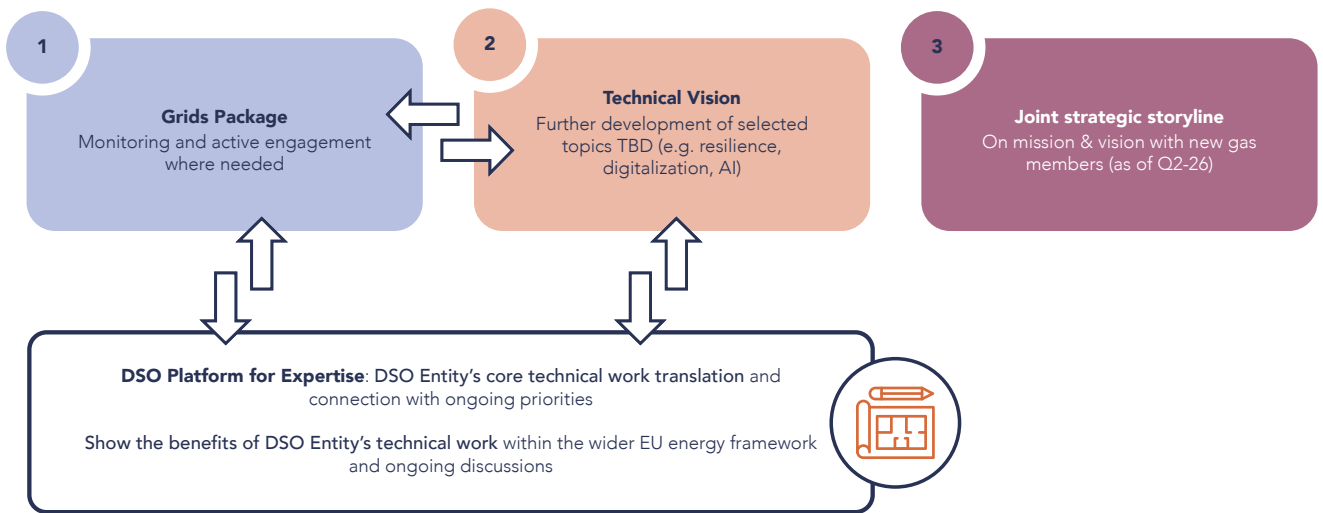


Figure 11: DSO Entity's platform of expertise



## INFO BOX B

### DSO ENTITY'S TECHNICAL VISION\*

[DSO Entity's Technical Vision](https://eudsoentity.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Technical-Vision-2024-Final-report-.pdf) was published in December 2024 and was the flagship project of the Knowledge Sharing Strategy 2024. In line with the EU's climate and energy objectives, DSO Entity is committed to supporting the path towards reaching Europe's carbon neutrality by 2050 and has developed its Technical Vision to provide the joint and common vision of European DSOs for the future of the EU's energy system. DSO Entity will support DSOs to actively facilitate the transition towards a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral energy system in the next decades, ensuring security of supply with future-proof network codes and with enhanced collaboration between TSOs and DSOs.

DSO Entity Technical Vision, through a customer-centric approach, describes how a fully decarbonised energy system will differ from the current system, outlines which key characteristics will have to be adapted from a DSO perspective to be able to deliver the EU's net-zero targets, and provide recommendations to ensure the right conditions are set.

\* <https://eudsoentity.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Technical-Vision-2024-Final-report-.pdf>

## KNOWLEDGE SHARING, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DSO ENTITY'S MEMBERS

- ▶ Learning about technical topics and increasing understanding of EU-level developments.
- ▶ Exchanging among DSOs concrete practices implemented within companies and countries to find collective solutions addressing the transition's challenges.
- ▶ Collecting and comparing DSO and country facts and figures to sketch what is happening in the EU-27.

## The Country Expert Group's role in implementing the Knowledge Sharing Strategy 2026

The CEG will continue to play an important role in supporting the implementation of the Knowledge Sharing Strategy in 2026, specifically regarding the continuation of raising awareness on DSOs' role and diversity by sharing good practices. The CEG will continue working in 2026 to collect key data on DSOs in the EU-27 to support DSO Entity's role as the European platform of expertise on and for all DSOs. By providing key figures and further examples of national good practices, the CEG will support DSO Entity's key messages, and thus ensure that knowledge is not only shared internally but also expanded to a greater external audience by notably contributing to feeding in the website page dedicated to Knowledge Sharing (launched in September 2025). In addition, the CEG will continue to be an important body for advice and expertise regarding other relevant activities with an even more comprehensive role as one of the integrated structures of the new DSO Entity's governance representing both gas and electricity DSOs.

## Communication and activities in external fora

As in 2025, the Knowledge Sharing Strategy 2026's delivery will go hand in hand with the Communication Strategy 2026, which role will be to find the right format, events and platform to disseminate – between members and with external stakeholders – the deliverables.

Further, the active involvement of DSO Entity in different advisory bodies of the EC and/or other bodies will continue such as its membership in the Electricity Coordination Group, the Smart Energy Expert Group, the Investors Dialogue and the Working Group of DG ENER on energy consumers. Also, DSO Entity's participation in the EC's Fora such as Copenhagen, Florence and Dublin will continue.

# 4. Specific Work Programmes of the Experts Groups and Task Forces 2025

## High-level overview of main deliverables in all three pillars in 2026 with a focus on the work of EG/TFs

Figure 8 gives a high-level summary of highlighted deliverables in 2026. All the details regarding the EGs and TFs' core workstreams and deliveries are summarised in the subsequent pages of this chapter 4.

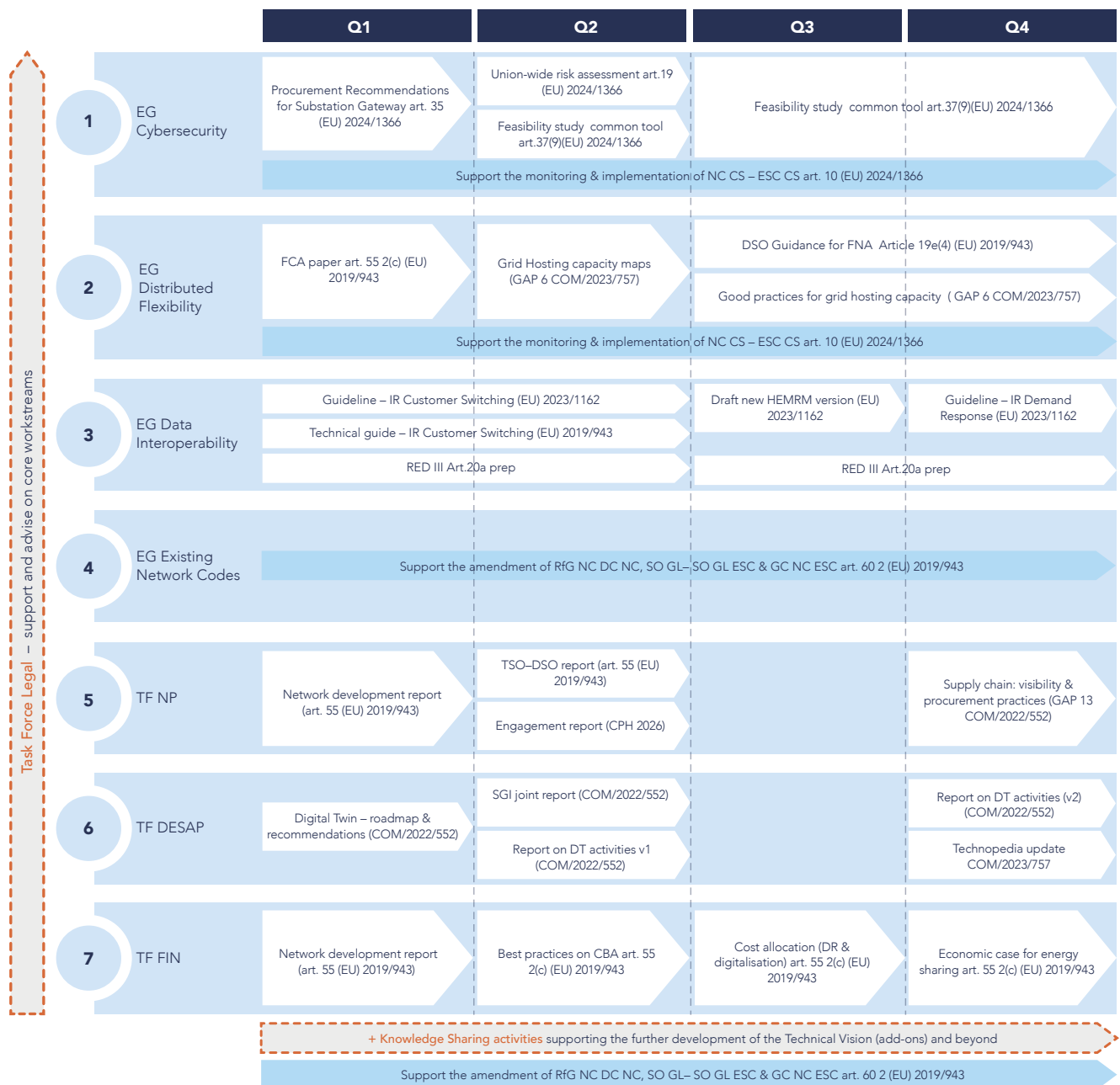


Figure 12: High-level overview of core activities in the Expert Groups and Task Forces' Work Programmes 2024





## 4.1 EXPERT GROUP CYBERSECURITY (EG CS)

Implementation of the Network Code of Cybersecurity	WORK AREA	In line with Article 6 (1) of European Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1366 (NCCS), DSO ENTITY will collaborate with ENTSO-E developing Terms Condition and Methodologies (TCM), and other related recommendations foreseen by the NCCS and support their implementation.
	DELIVERABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Feasibility study to develop a common tool: to share information with relevant national authorities in accordance with Article 37(9) of the European Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1366. The feasibility study will be done in close cooperation with ENISA (European Union Agency for Cybersecurity), the NIS Cooperation Group, the national single points of contact and the representatives of main stakeholders when assessing the feasibility.</li> <li>▶ Exercise scenario template to perform the cybersecurity exercises at entity and Member State level: to perform the cybersecurity exercises at entity and Member State level in accordance with Article 43 of the European Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1366. This deliverable will involve ACER and ENISA. Dedicated Webinars and information sharing with stakeholders will be organized to explain the structure and implementation.</li> <li>▶ Union-Wide Risk Assessment Report in accordance with Article 19 of the European Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1366. Dedicated workshops with selected stakeholders, including consultations with NIS Cooperation Group will be organized.</li> <li>▶ Procurement Recommendations for Substation Gateway in accordance with Article 35 of the European Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1366. Public consultation comments (received from public consultation during Oct-Nov) will be addressed and dedicated webinars will be organized with stakeholders before final publication.</li> <li>▶ Support to the European Stakeholder Committee for Cybersecurity in accordance with the Terms of Reference.</li> </ul>
Knowledge Sharing	WORK AREA	In line with art 55 2 (c) (EU) 2019/943, EG CS provides a platform allowing DSOs and relevant stakeholders to identify best practices and to elaborate solutions on a Union-wide level for the operation and development of DSOs in the field resilience towards natural disasters, cyberattacks, equipment failures, or pandemics.
	DELIVERABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Business Continuity Management (BCM):             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Develop the Risk Assessment Methodology and its subcomponents: Risk Analysis Template and Risk Matrix</li> <li>▶ Develop Business Continuity Strategies</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Newsletter: Dedicated newsletters will be drafted and submitted to High impact and Critical impact Entities to inform them on the key CS deliverables, their impact and implementation. In addition, dedicated webinars will be organized for specific topics with all DSO members.</li> </ul>
Support the sub-group Cybersecurity in the SEEG	WORK AREA	Support DSOs in addressing and channeling their concerns and proposed solutions to the appropriate authorities, while connecting them with harmonized frameworks at the EU level.

2026													
		Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
Work Area	Deliverable	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Implementation of Network Code Cyber Security	Feasibility study to develop a common tool												
	Exercise template; cybersecurity drills; MS & entity												
	Union-Wide Risk Assessment Report												
	Procurement Recommendations for Substation Gateway												
	ESC-Cyber support; ToR compliance; stakeholder coordination												
Knowledge Sharing	BCM												
	Newsletter												
	Support the sub-group Cybersecurity in the SEEG												



## 4.2 EXPERT GROUP DISTRIBUTED FLEXIBILITY (EG DF)

Network Code on Demand Response	WORK AREA	<p>According to Art 55(1)(c) of the Electricity Regulation, one of the tasks of DSO Entity is to facilitate demand-side flexibility and response, as well as distribution grid user's access to markets. The development process for the Network Code on Demand Response (NC DR) will continue through 2026. Once the Committee Procedure (comitology) phase is completed by the European Commission (EC), the adoption of the NC DR will mark the beginning of its implementation phase. DSO Entity will closely follow both stages to fulfill its mandates.</p> <p>In collaboration with ENTSO-E, the DSO Entity is expected to complete EU-wide methodology proposals for specific topics defined under NC DR. The exact timeline for the development of these terms, conditions, and methodologies will be determined accordingly, and deliverables will be outlined within this framework. Planning will be carried out with the relevant sub-working groups to ensure alignment with these terms, conditions, and methodologies.</p> <p>Furthermore, to ensure effective stakeholder engagement, the DRESG (Demand Response European Sub Group) organization will continue its efforts throughout the process.</p>
	DELIVERABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development of Proposals for Terms Conditions and Methodologies in cooperation with ENTSO-E</li> <li>▶ Fulfilling the monitoring and reporting requirements of NC DR implementation process &amp; supporting the Stakeholder Engagement through the Demand Response Stakeholder Group (DRESG)</li> </ul>
Flexibility Needs Assessment Methodology	WORK AREA	<p>As part of the Electricity Market Design Reform (EMDR) (EU) 2024/1747, a key new EU methodology for assessing flexibility needs was introduced through the updated Article 19e of the Regulation (EU) 2019/943. These new provisions tasked the DSO Entity and ENTSO-E with developing an initial proposal to define the data formats, types, and methodology required for flexibility analysis. To achieve this, a joint task force was established with ENTSO-E, and within nine months of the EMDR adoption, the proposal was developed and submitted to ACER by April 2025.</p> <p>This accomplishment highlights not only the collaborative efforts of both Associations but also through close engagement with key stakeholders and the public as well.</p> <p>As of July 2025, it was formally adopted and published, marking the official launch of the flexibility needs analysis process at national level.</p> <p>Under the FNAM, the DSO Entity will undertake the following roles and responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Coordinate with TSOs and DSOs, in close cooperation with ENTSO-E, regarding the data and analyses required for the preparation of FNA reports, as defined under Article 3(3) of the FNAM.</li> <li>▶ Prepare and publish the DSO Entity Guidance at the EU level, in line with Article 3(3)(a) of the FNAM.</li> </ul>
	DELIVERABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Monitoring the Implementation of FNAM in Cooperation with ENTSO-E ensuring coordination of TSO &amp; DSOs as per required under FNAM</li> <li>▶ Development and Publication of the DSO Entity Guidance as per defined under Flexibility Needs Assessment Methodology (FNAM)</li> </ul>
Grid Hosting Capacity Information	WORK AREA	<p>Under Action 6 of the EU Action Plan for Grids, DSO Entity and ENTSO-E are working on establishing a pan-European overview of available grid hosting capacities. The general purpose of Grid Action Plan 6 is to improve visibility on grid capacity and connection requests, supporting the planning of renewables, storage systems, EV charging stations and other relevant new project developers.</p> <p>The main deliverable will be the DSO Entity &amp; ENTSO-E joint information Portal which will provide clarity on Grid Hosting Capacity Information (Capacitypedia) by describing and explaining most commonly used terms and techniques in showing grid hosting capacity information by system operators. This information on the website will serve as a manual and make it <b>easier to understand</b> information on grid hosting capacity will also <b>help in navigating</b> to existing national capacity maps and maps and information of SOs.</p>
	DELIVERABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Establishment and Operationalisation of the Grid Hosting Capacity Information Portal on GHCs</li> <li>▶ Maintenance, Updates, and Continuous Operation of the Portal</li> <li>▶ Reporting on Good Practices on Grid Hosting Capacity Information</li> </ul>

Knowledge Sharing and Communication Strategy on Distributed Flexibility	WORK AREA	This work area contributes to the DSO Entity engagement with its members and relevant stakeholders to identify, collect and share good practices on the topics related to EG DF work areas.
	DELIVERABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Knowledge sharing on relevant topics such as FCAs and others</li> <li>► Implementation of communication plan for NC DR</li> <li>► Support to the Work of Smart Energy Expert Group (SEEG) Consumer Empowerment &amp; Protection Sub-Group</li> </ul>

2026													
		Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
Work Area	Deliverable	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Network Code on Demand Response	TCM proposals; ENTSO-E collaboration												
	NC DR monitoring; reporting; DRESG engagement												
Flexibility Needs Assessment Methodology	FNAM monitoring; ENTSO-E cooperation; TSO-DSO coordination												
	DSO Guidance; FNAM; publication												
Grid Hosting Capacity Information	Joint DSO Entity ENTSO-E Portal on GHCs; operational launch												
	Portal maintenance; updates; continuous operation												
	Good practices report; GHC information												
Knowledge sharing on Distributed Flexibility	Knowledge sharing on relevant topics such as FCAs and others												
	NC DR communications; implementation; outreach												
	SEEG support; CEP subgroup; coordination												



### 4.3 EXPERT GROUP DATA INTEROPERABILITY (EG DI)

Contribution to the DSO Entity-ENTSO-E JWG	WORK AREA	<p>The Joint Working Group on Data Interoperability with ENTSO-E was legally mandated by Article 11 in the Implementing Act (EU) 2023/1162. EG DI will continue to coordinate the participation of DSO Entity's members in this joint group.</p> <p>This work aims to ensure the consistent mapping and further development of data interoperability requirements and rules in metering and consumption data, demand response, and customer switching, as well as supporting the European Commission in any additional implementing acts that the Commission may deem necessary.</p> <p>Further, it will also (1) facilitate the development of necessary standard models (e.g. HEMRM or CIM model mappings); and, when appropriate, (2) provide advice to the Board of Directors (BoD) of the DSO Entity concerning the deliverables of the JWG.</p>
	DELIVERABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Maintenance and expansion of the repository on data interoperability created in response to Article 13 of Implementing Act (EU) 2023/1162</li> <li>▶ Publication of a Guidance Document for the Implementing Act on Customer Switching (together with template for Member States to complete);</li> <li>▶ Publication of a Guidance Document for the Implementing Act on Demand Response (together with template for Member States to complete);</li> <li>▶ Publication of technical guide for the implementing Act on Customer Switching;</li> <li>▶ Publication of technical guide for the implementing Act on Demand Response;</li> <li>▶ Publication of updated version of the Harmonised Energy Market Role Model;</li> <li>▶ Publication of mappings of the information on the different Implementing Acts on Data Interoperability with CIM.</li> </ul>
Work in relation to Article 20a of RED III	WORK AREA	<p>Article 20a of the RED requires that “if the data are available to them, distribution system operators in their territory, to make available data on the share of renewable electricity and the greenhouse gas emissions content of the electricity supplied in each bidding zone, as accurately as possible in intervals equal to the market settlement frequency but of no more than one hour, with forecasting where available. [...]”.</p> <p>DSO Entity will support its members in the identification of methodologies that could be used for the delivery of this obligation.</p>
	DELIVERABLES	<p>Identification of potential challenges for the delivery of this information and, potentially jointly with ENTSO-E, the development of (non-compulsory) methodology for the delivery of the information</p>
Knowledge sharing: Support work in the subgroup Data4Energy of the Smart Energy Expert Group (SEEG)	WORK AREA	<p>The Smart Energy Expert Group (SEEG) started its work in October 2024 as part of the EU Action Plan on the Digitalisation of the Energy System. DSO Entity is a member of the SEEG by constructions (i.e. without application).</p> <p>EG DI leads the work from DSO Entity in one of the sub-groups (i.e. sub-group Data4Energy). The objective would be to advance interoperability and secure data exchanges across distribution systems in the EU; and ensure a DSO perspective in the EU's digital transformation of the energy systems.</p> <p>This approach will allow customers to have greater access to their energy data, and subsequent control over it, apart from the harmonisation of data frameworks across the EU</p>



2026													
		Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
Work Area	Deliverable	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Contribution to the DSO Entity-ENTSO-E JWG	Data interop repository; maintenance/expansion; Art.13 IA 2023/1162												
	Customer Switching guidance; publication; MS template												
	Demand Response guidance; publication; MS template												
	Technical guide; Customer Switching IA; publication												
	Technical guide; Demand Response IA; publication												
	HEMRM update; publication;												
	CIM mappings; Implementing Acts; publication												
Knowledge Sharing	Support work in the subgroup Data4Energy of the Smart Energy Expert Group (SEEG)												
Article 20a in RED III	Supporting DSOs with the implementation of article 20a in RED III												



## 4.4 EXPERT GROUP EXISTING NETWORK CODES (EG ExNC)

Follow-up on the amendments to grid connection Network codes (NC RfG and NC DC)	WORK AREA	According to Art 60(2), DSO Entity is tasked to propose draft amendments to the Network Codes impacting DSOs. In 2023 ACER and DG ENER opened the revision process for the NC RfG, NC DC. Upon ACER's presentation of the first draft of the amended network codes, the EG participated in the dedicated public consultation providing extensive feedback on the text proposals, including comments of technical and editorial nature. After the public consultation, which took place in September 2023, the European Commission took responsibility for advancing the revision process, which will include the following steps: the presentation of a new legal text, the opening of a new public consultation, the publishing of the revised network codes. In 2026, the European Commission will revise NC RfG and NC DC. Timely conclusion of this work is critical to ensure the efficient and reliable integration of renewable energy sources (RES) into the European power system.
	DELIVERABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Response to the public consultation that the EC will be launching (date to be defined).</li> <li>▶ Development of Certification schemes for EVs and Heat Pumps as annexes to the Grid Connection Codes. EG EX NC will be providing Secretarial support for the organization of this expert group from European Stakeholder Committee GC. It will nonetheless, through some of its experts, provide technical contributions.</li> </ul>
Continuous Interaction within the European Stakeholder Committees on GC and SO	WORK AREA	The EG EX NC both provides technical input through its experts and Secretarial support through the EG coordinators.
	DELIVERABLES	Collaborating with stakeholders on technical matters is one of the key pillars of this EG and EU DSO Entity in general. This EG collaborates closely with ENTSO-E, ACER and other key industry players in the framework of the European Stakeholder Committees. Ad-hoc interactions with specific stakeholders are organised to discuss certain topics. The EG coordinators carry out secretarial support by organizing the general ESC meetings once or twice a year, following a well-defined division of work between EU DSO Entity, ACER and ENTSO-E. Expert group coordinators nonetheless work on drafting the minutes for the general ESC meetings, upon agreement with colleagues from ACER and ENTSO-E.
Review of existing NC or GL, especially as of new NC on Demand Side Response	WORK AREA	Give advice on the newly drafted NC Demand Side Response and its implications with other existing network codes.
	DELIVERABLES	The NC Demand Side Response was shown to interact with some existing network codes and is expected to enter in force in 2026. For instance, the current version of the NC demand response affects: 1) SO GL, 2) EB Regulation, 3) SO Regulation amendments DR NC including CACM 2.0 4) NC DC.

Possible re-opening of existing NC or GL, or documents such as GLDPM, KORRR, System Operation Guideline and Balancing Guidelines	<b>WORK AREA</b>	The primary goal of the EG is to participate in the revision process of the existing network codes (an overview <a href="#">here</a> ). Although it is unknown whether/when ACER will decide to start revising other existing network codes, the EG EX NC must find itself ready
	<b>DELIVERABLES</b>	Should it be needed, experts will engage in the revision of other existing network codes, by drafting technical papers, responding to public consultations, interacting with key stakeholders (ACER, ENTSO-E and the European Commission).

		2026											
		Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
Work Area	Deliverable	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Follow-up on the amendments to grid connection Network codes (NC RfG and NC DC)	RfG/NC DC revision; EC consultation; stakeholder input												
Development of Certification schemes for EVs and Heat Pumps	Secretariat; technical input; all-year												
Continuous Interaction within the European Stakeholder Committees on GC and SO	Technical input; documentation/ minutes; ESC subgroups												
Review of existing NC or GL, especially as of new NC on Demand Side Response	NC DR impact; existing codes; 2026 entry												
Possible re-opening of existing NC or GL, or documents such as GLDPM, KORRR, System Operation Guideline and Balancing Guidelines	Code revisions; papers & consultations; stakeholder liaison												
Collaboration with relevant Stakeholder	Stakeholder collaboration; ESC framework; ad-hoc engagement												



## 4.5 TASK FORCE DIGITALISATION OF THE ENERGY SYSTEM (TF DESAP)

Define Smart Grid Indicators for the European Grid Operators	WORK AREA	According to Art 55(1)(d) of the Electricity Regulation, DSO Entity is tasked with contributing to the digitalisation of the distribution systems, including the deployment of smart grids and intelligent metering systems. This work area focuses on developing and harmonising common Smart Grid Indicators for European grid operators, in cooperation with the European Commission, ACER, CEER, and ENTSO-E. The activity ensures the continuity of the EU Action Plan (COM/2022/552) and the conclusions of the Copenhagen Forum 2025, which requested a coordinated report on SGIs for all voltage levels. By contributing to this joint effort, TF DESAP ensures that the indicators reflect DSO perspectives and support the effective monitoring of Europe's grid digitalisation progress.
	DELIVERABLES	Joint report with CEER, ACER, ENTSO-E and DSO Entity on Smart Grid Indicators (input and output indicators) in anticipation for the Copenhagen Forum 2026 [Q2 2026].
Support the development and update of Digital Twins by the European DSOs	WORK AREA	This work package advances the development and implementation of Digital Twins for Europe's electricity grids, in line with the Digitalising the Energy System – EU Action Plan (COM/2022/552). TF DESAP supports the Horizon Europe project DSO4DT and cooperates with ENTSO-E through the Joint Task Force DESAP to refine concepts, align priorities, and promote interoperability between DSOs and TSOs. The activities include mobilising stakeholders, sharing knowledge, and hosting the European Digital Twin Conference 2026, contributing to the EU's vision of an integrated and data-driven energy system.
	DELIVERABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Deliver a roadmap, with synthesis and recommendations to adopt a Digital Twin of the European Electricity grid (Q1 2026)</li> <li>▶ DSO4DT Deliverable 1.3: Report on Support Provided to Digital Twin Activities – First Iteration (Q2 2026)</li> <li>▶ DSO4DT Organize and host a Digital Twin Conference (Q2-Q3 2026)</li> <li>▶ DSO4DT Deliverable D2.3: Report on Insights from the first Digital Twin Conference (Q3 2026)</li> <li>▶ DSO4DT Deliverable D1.4: Report on Digital Twin Activities Support Needs Assessment Report – Second Iteration (Q3 2026)</li> <li>▶ DSO4DT Deliverable D3.2: Report on the State of Digital Twins for the Electricity Grid Across Europe – Second iteration (Q4 2026)</li> </ul>
Promote the uptake of smart grid, network efficiency, and innovative technologies for system operators (Technopedia)	WORK AREA	This work package promotes the uptake of innovative grid technologies through the continued development of the joint DSO/TSO Technopedia, as mandated by Action 7 of the Grid Action Plan (COM/2023/757). Building on the successful launch of the platform in 2025, TF DESAP will expand its content and improve its methodology for collecting and reviewing technological solutions relevant to system operators. By fostering transparency and collaboration with ENTSO-E and external stakeholders, the Technopedia will serve as a shared knowledge base supporting innovation and efficiency across Europe's electricity networks.
	DELIVERABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Integration of additional technologies on the DSO/TSO Technopedia (Q4 2026)</li> <li>▶ Webinar to present the Technopedia platform as well as introduce the interface to stakeholders (Q4 2026)</li> </ul>

Knowledge Sharing	WORK AREA	This work package reinforces DSO Entity's statutory pillar on knowledge sharing and directly supports Action 7 of the Grid Action Plan (COM/2023/757), which calls for enhanced collaboration and dissemination of best practices among system operators. TF DESAP will foster the exchange of knowledge both within DSO Entity and with external stakeholders through events, workshops, and conferences. Key activities include presenting a coordinated DSO position on Smart Grid Indicators at the Copenhagen Forum 2026 and further developing the joint DSO/TSO Technopedia as an open platform for sharing innovative solutions and lessons learned across Europe's power system community.
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		2026											
		Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
Work Area	Deliverable	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Support the development and update of Digital Twins by the European DSOs – Work area number 2	Define Smart Grid Indicators for the European Grid Operators												
	Smart Grid Indicators; joint report												
	Grid Digital Twin; roadmap & recommendations												
	DSO4DT 1.3; support report (v1)												
	Digital Twin conference; organize & host												
	DSO4DT D2.3; conference insights												
	DSO4DT D1.4; needs assessment (v2)												
Promote the uptake of smart grid, network efficiency, and innovative technologies for system operators (Technopedia)	DSO4DT D3.2; State of DTs (v2)												
	Technopedia; tech integration												
	Technopedia webinar; platform/interface												





## 4.6 TASK FORCE NETWORK PLANNING (TF NP)

Distribution Network Development Plans (DNDP)	WORK AREA	According to Art 55(1)(a) of the Electricity Regulation and continuing on the work set by the Grid Action Plan 3 COM/2023/757, DSO Entity is tasked with promoting the operation and planning of distribution networks in coordination with the operation and planning of transmission networks. Refining the approach to DNDPs as key instruments for transparent and strategic distribution system planning. It aims to analyse national practices, clarify the DNDPs' role within the broader planning framework, and prepare DSO Entity's contributions to ongoing discussions with the European Commission, ACER, CEER, and ENTSO-E. The work also includes developing communication materials to explain DNDPs' value, addressing links with public engagement and connection request processes, and supporting alignment of future European developments on DNDPs.
	DELIVERABLES	Prepare a report on what network development is all about. [Q1 2026].
DSO-TSO collaboration on network planning on national level	WORK AREA	In line with article 57 (EU) 2019/943, DSO ENTITY focuses on strengthening DSO-TSO collaboration in network planning at the national level, in line with the Copenhagen Forum (CPH) 2025 Conclusions, which invite DSO Entity and ENTSO-E to develop a joint report on best practices in this area. The work aims to identify and document effective approaches for joint scenario development, alignment of planning methodologies, coordination of investment priorities, and management of connection backlogs. The outcome will support the creation of a common understanding and more coordinated planning processes between DSOs and TSOs across Europe.
	DELIVERABLES	Publish a Report on good practices of DSO-TSO collaboration on network planning until CPH 2026 [Q2 2026].
Stakeholder engagement on network planning	WORK AREA	In line with art. 55(c) (EU) 2019/943) EU DSO ENTITY in collaboration with ENTSO-E addresses stakeholder and public engagement in network planning, responding to the Copenhagen Forum 2025 Conclusions. The work aims to map national approaches, exchange experiences on transparency and consultation processes, and support DSO Entity's contribution to the European "Pact of Engagement." By collecting and sharing good practices, the task force seeks to strengthen trust, inclusiveness, and transparency in network planning across Member States.
	DELIVERABLES	Prepare a report on stakeholder engagement/transparency [Q2 2026].

Supply chain	WORK AREA	Focuses on improving supply-chain visibility and efficiency in line with the Copenhagen Forum 2025 Conclusions, which call for accelerated implementation of Grid Action Plan Action 13 (COM/2023/757) on supply-chain transparency and common specifications. The work aims to enhance coordination between DSOs, manufacturers, and policymakers to address procurement bottlenecks, strengthen foresight on component availability, and improve public procurement practices. Through these activities, the task force in collaboration with ENTSO-E contributes to ensuring that supply-chain readiness supports the timely implementation of Europe's grid investments
	DELIVERABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Updated actions contributing to the Joint Roadmap for the next CPH Forum (Q2 2026).</li> <li>▶ Review of the public procurement guidelines and relevant documentation [Q4 2026]</li> </ul>
Knowledge Sharing	WORK AREA	In line with art. 55.1 (c) ((EU) 2019/943) DSO ENTITY focuses on facilitating knowledge sharing among DSOs and with external stakeholders. The work aims to foster collaboration on emerging planning challenges and innovative topics such as data-centre load profiles and interactions with the charging infrastructure sector. By creating a space for continuous dialogue and mutual learning, this work area supports the development of forward-looking, data-driven network planning practices across Europe

2026													
		Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
Work Area	Deliverable	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Network development explainer; report												
DSO-TSO collaboration on network planning on national level	DSO-TSO planning good practices; report												
Stakeholder engagement on network planning	Stakeholder engagement & transparency; report												
Supply chain	Joint Roadmap actions update; CPH Forum												
	Public procurement guidelines; review												
Knowledge sharing	Knowledge sharing; TF NP												



## 4.7 TASK FORCE INVESTING, FUNDING AND FINANCE (TF FIN)

Work Package Regulated Revenues	WORK AREA	In line with art. 55 2(c) (EU) 2019/943 The Task Force (TF) goal is to support the European Commission and stakeholders in developing regulatory models for the energy transition. It will maintain active engagement with the EC, ACER, and ENTSO-E through workshops and informal exchanges.
	DELIVERABLES	<p>TF FIN reserves itself to adapt the work in this area upon the publication of the Grid Package, which may give directly or indirectly new tasks to the TF. Indicatively, possible deliverables are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Work on the cost components for DSOs, taking into account digitalization and flexibility</li> <li>▶ Work on identifying good practices for cost-benefit analysis for DSOs.</li> <li>▶ Undertake knowledge sharing activities to discuss new regulatory models across Europe (i.e. Spain, Netherlands and Germany).</li> <li>▶ Considerate the economic case for energy sharing</li> </ul>
Work Package Public Funding	WORK AREA	In line with art. 55 2(c) (EU) 2019/943 TF FIN will support the European Commission and other EU institutions in shaping the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034) and the reform of the TEN-E regulation (end 2025–early 2026). Its objective is to promote measures that facilitate efficient DSO investments and to keep members informed about the progress and outcomes of these processes.
	DELIVERABLES	<p>TF FIN will mostly work on these two topics throughout the entire 2026. Deliverables could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Monitoring of MFF development and response to relevant public consultations, including engagement with relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>▶ Monitoring the expected revision of the TEN-E regulation, through responses to public consultations and engagement with relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>▶ Follow-up workshop on PCIs – Potential Activity</li> </ul>
Work Package Private Funding	WORK AREA	In line with art. 55 2(c) (EU) 2019/943 TF FIN will promote strong financial frameworks for DSOs through knowledge-sharing initiatives. Its objective is to exchange best practices on private funding, including equity, debt, and blended finance. TF FIN will help members access relevant information. It will engage with the EC, EIB, and other stakeholders, including consulting firms and commercial banks.
	DELIVERABLES	Knowledge sharing activities in this area building on the workshop on blended finance organized in 2025, which featured officials from the EIB, the EC, and the EBRD
Work Package "Grid Package" 4"	WORK AREA	In line with art. 55 2(c) (EU) 2019/943 TF FIN will work on any legislative mandate arising from the Grid Package. If no specific task is assigned to DSO Entity on topics relevant to TF FIN, it will nonetheless contribute by responding to public consultations and engaging with relevant stakeholders.
	DELIVERABLES	TF FIN will reconsider its deliverables once the Grid Package is published

		2026											
		Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
Work Area	Deliverable	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Regulated Revenues	DSO cost components; digitalisation; flexibility												
	CBA best practices; DSOs; methodology												
	Knowledge sharing; regulatory models (ES/ NL/DE); potential												
	Energy sharing; economic case; assessment												
Public Funding	MFF monitoring; consultations; stakeholder engagement												
	TEN-E revision; monitoring; consultations												
	PCI follow-up workshop; potential; planning												
Private Funding	Knowledge sharing; blended finance; EIB/ EC/EBRD												
Grid Package	Deliverables update; post-Grid Package; review												



## 4.8 TASK FORCE LEGAL (TF LEGAL)

Providing legal analysis and support for DSO Entity activities	WORK AREA	<p>The general activities of TF Legal focus on preparing the DSO Entity's legal assessments of network codes and other legislative acts in which the DSO Entity participates as one of the parties representing DSOs. The task force also ensures coordination and cooperation with the ENTSO-E legal group where necessary, guaranteeing that the DSO Entity's legal positions are duly represented. In addition, TF Legal provides advice to the DSO Entity's Expert and Task Forces (EG/TF), either upon request or on its own initiative, on legal matters, including support in the development and implementation of EU law. Furthermore, the task force advises the EG/TF on the evolution of the regulatory framework in relation to the existing legislation, identifying any legal concerns that may arise.</p>
Additional areas coming from European Commission's proposals	WORK AREA	<p>TF Legal will play a key role in these processes by providing legal assistance, monitoring legislative developments, assessing their implications for DSOs, and ensuring that DSO Entity's input is consistent with the applicable legal framework. This support will be required continuously throughout the year as the initiatives advance, enabling DSO Entity to contribute effectively to the Commission's 2026 agenda.</p>
	DELIVERABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Public Procurement Directives' review: Commission's proposal</li> <li>▶ Grid Package: Support for EG/TF regarding different topics</li> </ul>





## 5. Summary and conclusion

From its regular mandate, DSO Entity has a clear focus on the anticipated technical deliverables, including the support for the refinement of Distribution Network Development Plans, the implementation of the Flexibility Needs Assessment Methodology, Network Code on Cybersecurity and the Network Code on Demand Response, along with the development of the associated Terms & Conditions and methodologies. In addition, DSO ENTITY will support the application of the Implementing Regulations on Customer Switching and Demand Response by providing clear and practical guidance to its members and stakeholders. Naturally, we are also prepared to follow up on any action point from the Grid Package that is soon to be launched.

In 2026, DSO Entity enters a decisive phase in its development, consolidating the progress achieved in its first years of operation while preparing for a structurally expanded mandate. The organisation continues to grow not only in membership but also in strategic relevance and technical capacity. With more than 830 electricity DSOs and the forthcoming integration of over 400 gas and hydrogen DSOs, DSO Entity is on track to become the single European platform representing nearly all DSOs across energy vectors, covering approximately 337 million connections across the EU. This expansion strengthens its legitimacy as the central body for the development of network codes and the coordination of system operators at European level.

The organisation's Expert Groups and Task Forces will continue delivering value through technical outputs, ranging from methodologies, guidance documents, joint platforms, and monitoring activities, to support the implementation of the EU's energy networks-related legislation. At the same time, Knowledge Sharing will remain a strategic pillar for spreading best practices, improving transparency, and contributing factual insights into the realities of DSOs across Europe. This will further reinforce DSO Entity's role as a hub of expertise and a trusted partner of European institutions, including ACER, ENTSO-E, ENTSO-G, ENNOH, and the European Commission

Overall, DSO Entity's growth, professionalisation, and expanding portfolio of technical deliverables underline its increasing added value for the European energy system. In 2026, the organisation is well-positioned to support the EU in achieving its climate, competitiveness and security objectives by helping ensure that Europe's distribution grids—electricity, gas and hydrogen—are resilient, digitalised, interoperable, and ready for the future.





# List of abbreviations

ACER	The European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators
AP24	Annual Plan 2024
BESC	The Expert Selection Board Committee
BoD	Board of Directors
CAPEX	Capital Expenditures
CBC	Communication Board Committee
CEER	The Council of European Energy Regulators
CEG	Country Expert Group
DC	Demand Connection
DESAP	Digitalisation of the Energy System: Action Plan
DSO	Distribution System Operator
DT	Digital Twins
EC	European Commission
EED	Energy Efficiency Directive
EG CS	Expert Group Cybersecurity
EG DF	Expert Group Distributed Flexibility
EG DI	Expert Group Data Interoperability
EG ExNC	Expert Group Existing Network Codes
EG	Expert Group
EMD	Electricity Market Design
ENCS	The European Network for Cyber Security
ENTSO-E	European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity
ENTSO-G	European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas
EPBD	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

ESC	European Stakeholders Committee
EV	Electric vehicle
ExCo	Executive Committee
FF55	Fit for 55 package
F-gases	Fluorinated Greenhouse gases
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Member States
NCCS	Network Code Cybersecurity
NCDR	Network Code on Demand Response
NZIA	Net-Zero Industrial Act
OPEX	Operating Expenses
PCI	Project of Common Interest
RED	Renewable Energy Directive
RES	Renewable Energy Source
RfG	Requirements for Generators
RGI	Renewable Grid Initiative
SAG	Strategic Advisory Group
SEEG	Smart Energy Expert Group
SGI	Smart Grid Indicators
SOGL	System Operation Guideline
T&D BC	TSO-DSO Board Committee
TCMs	Terms Conditions and/or Methodologies.
TF	Task Force
TF DESAP	Task Force Digitalising the Energy System - Action Plan
TF TYNDP	Task Force Ten Year Network Development Plan
TSO	Transmission System Operator
TYNDP	Ten Year Network Development Plan

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