DSO ENTITY
DSOs FOR EUROPE

Annex 6 – Draft financing rules

Introduction

The basic principle of the combination of a fixed and a variable fee is maintained, be it slightly amended to accommodate the integration of an extra vector:

- Every member shall pay a fixed fee per year, this fixed fee is equal for every member, independent from size or energy-vector
- Every Member shall pay a variable fee per year, proportional to the number of Connected Customers. This fee can be different between vector E and G (since specific activities per vector might require a different budget)

To achieve a transparent, fair and balanced allocation of cost to both vectors, and to prevent cross-vector subsidizing, the budget will be activity based. The main groups of activities are

(i) Governance (incl. member management and support for SAG, CEG and Councils),
(ii) Knowledge sharing, coordination with TSOs and Communication, and
(iii) Support for Expert Groups and Task Forces.

In addition, the following was agreed;

- Anticipating a start as of [Q2/2026], an initial annual budget for gas-related activities for 2026 is estimated at 1.3 million € for the initial operative phase, based on a preliminary budget. The actual budget will be approved by the new Board and General Assembly, upon integration, so as to enable incoming members to participate in decision making on the budget.
- For the first year, a nearly equal variable fee between Electricity and Gas/Hydrogen DSOs will be pursued.

Some further details are elaborated in the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure (copy-pasted below)

Statutes / Article 14 – Fees

1. The funds required to carry out the tasks of the EU DSO Entity will be raised by contributions from the Members, Associate Members and Third Country Partners. For each financial year, the Assembly approves the annual budget and determines the membership fees upon proposal of the Board. The assessment of the membership fee must be based on the approved budget.

2. The membership fee shall be fair and proportionate and shall reflect the number of Connected Customers to the DSO concerned. Until the decision on a change of the membership fee rules by the Assembly, the membership fee rules decided upon remain valid.

3. The membership fee of a Member is calculated as follows:
    a) All Members of the EU DSO Entity shall pay a fixed fee to be approved annually by the General Assembly upon proposal of the Board.
    b) A Member (i.e., a single legal entity) who meets the definition of both Electricity and Gas/Hydrogen DSO shall pay an amount equal to one hundred and fifty percent (150%) of the annually approved fixed fee.

c) Two Members forming an electricity/gas pair (i.e., one Electricity Member and one Gas/Hydrogen Member) by virtue of being clearly affiliated with one another shall each pay an amount equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the annually approved fixed fee.

d) In addition, every Member shall pay a variable fee proportional to the number of Connected Customers as defined in Article 1.13 and to be approved annually by the General Assembly upon proposal of the Board.

e) Associate Members and Third Country Partners shall pay 50% of the annual membership fee resulting from the application of a) and b), but, in any case, a membership fee that is not less than the minimum as determined in the Rules of Procedure.

Rules of Procedure / Article 3 - Annual Budget

1. Anticipating a start as of [Q2/2026] with an initial annual budget for gas-related activities for 2026 estimated at 1.3 million € for the initial operative phase, based on a preliminary budget to be prepared by the Secretariat for approval by the Board and by the General Assembly. For the first year, a nearly equal variable fee between Electricity and Gas/Hydrogen DSOs will be pursued.

2. To achieve a transparent, fair and balanced allocation of cost to both vectors, and to prevent cross-vector subsidizing, the budget will be activity based. The main groups of activities are (i) Governance (incl. member management and support for SAG, CEG and Councils), (ii) Knowledge sharing, coordination with TSOs and Communication and (iii) support for Expert Groups and Task Forces.

3. The allocation between Electricity and Gas/Hydrogen DSOs is as follows:
   i. Governance (incl. member management and support for SAG, CEG and Councils): allocation according to number of Board seats;
   ii. Knowledge sharing, coordination with TSOs and Communication allocation according to number of Board seats; and
   iii. Support for Expert Groups and Task Forces:
      - Joint Expert Groups and Task Forces: based on number of connections
      - Separate Expert Groups and Task Forces: allocated to corresponding vector.

4. A revision of the model as described in Article 14 of the Statutes can be performed after an initial operative phase, in case the proposed budget exceeds the initial budget, and should be based on the principle of an identical increase in both the fixed fee and the variable fee in terms of percentage.