



**BEUC** The European  
Consumer  
Organisation

The Consumer Voice in Europe

# The current and future role of DSOs – the consumer perspective

Geode Spring Seminar

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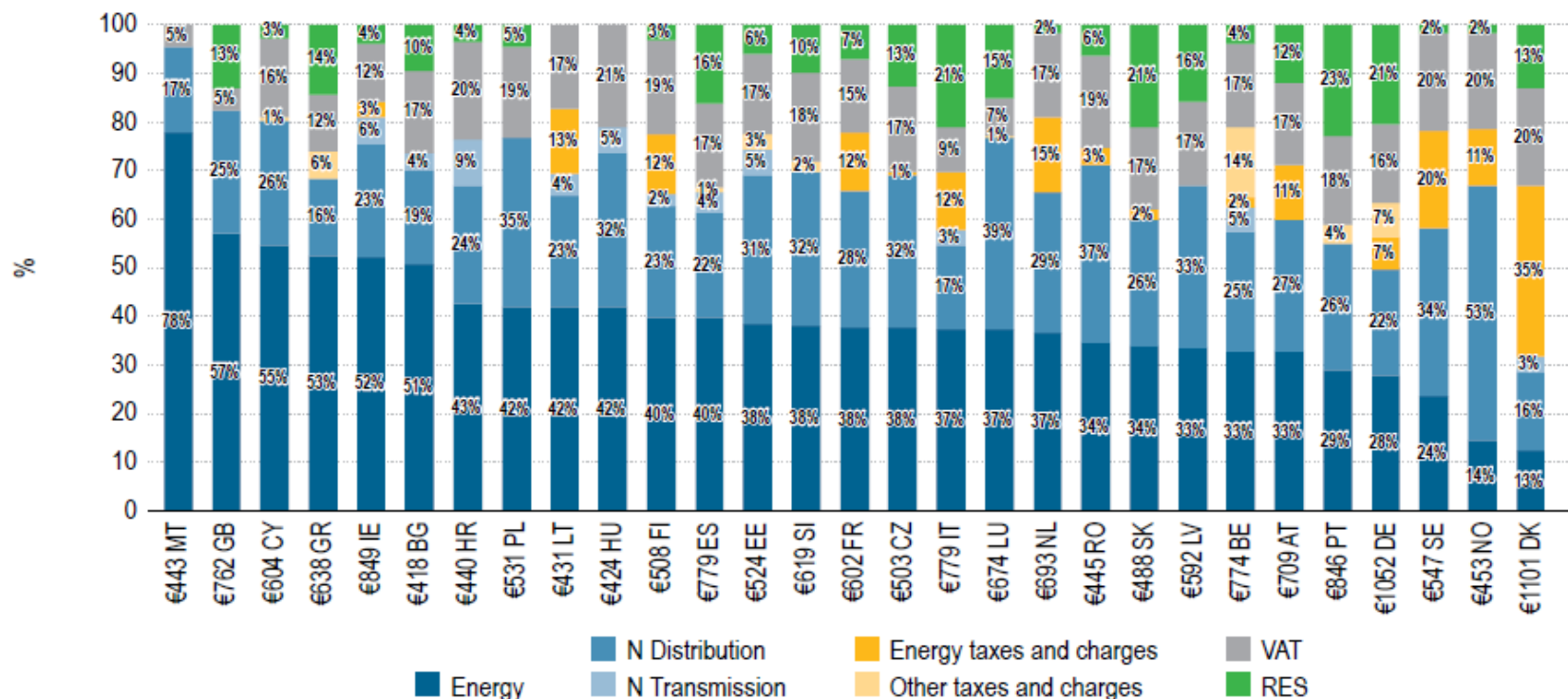
Martin Salamon, Chief Economist  
Danish Consumer Council

# Why do DSOs matter to consumers?

- ❑ “The face of electricity” for many consumers and for all prosumers
- ❑ You cannot change your DSO, no matter what you think about their price or service
- ❑ DSO decides if you get satisfactory access - or access at all - to the new products and opportunities of the energy transition
- ❑ Only strong regulation and independent regulators can ensure efficiency growth, correct pricing, innovative services and rising quality of service

# Network tariffs – up to 53% of electricity price for households

POTP electricity break-down of the incumbents' standard offers for households in capital cities – November–December 2015 (%)



Source: ACER Retail Database (2016)<sup>29</sup> and NRAs.

# DSOs

## What doesn't change?

- ❑ DSOs as neutral market facilitators
- ❑ Vertically integrated DSOs should not, in their communication and branding, create confusion in respect of the separate identity
- ❑ Unbundling rules (threshold of 100 000 connected customers continues to apply)

# DSOs

## What's new?

New expansions of DSOs tasks relevant for consumers:

- They must allow all market players to participate, including those active in renewables, demand response, energy storage and aggregators
- They will be allowed to operate storage facilities and recharging points for electric vehicles
- They will have responsibility for data-management, especially where smart meters are rolled out

DSOs as regulated entities  
may get more powers  
outside their monopoly role.

How can we ensure they will  
not limit competition in the  
energy market?



# New EU DSO body

## What's in the Commission's proposal:

- New EU DSO entity should be established in order to promote coordination of distribution and transmission systems
- New EU DSO body will be tasked with developing demand response, data management, cyber security, data protection, network codes, deployment of smart grids and smart meters as well as integrating distributed generation

## New EU DSO body



- The Commission's proposal does not include any requirement for independence.
- The Commission's proposal does not empower ACER to exercise the oversight related to this body.
- It is not clear how the consumer voice will be heard in the work of this new entity.



Thank you for your attention

[www.beuc.eu](http://www.beuc.eu) – [consumers@beuc.eu](mailto:consumers@beuc.eu)

