

Comment on suggested amendment of Articles of Associations

Suggested amendment

The Board suggests to the Members' Assembly to replace the exact fees for public sector network partners in the Articles of Associations (AoA) by the following sentence:

"The fees for public sector entities are agreed between the network partners and the SSF Board on a case by case basis."

Background information

When Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) was founded, three public sector network partners were gained to support the launch of Swiss Sustainable Finance (SECO, Canton of Zurich, City of Zurich). All three of them saw their role mainly as a supporter to get SSF going and committed to considerable initial funding. With their role as network partners, these three parties also agreed that they would not be granted any of the voting rights given to SSF members. While the Articles of Associations reflected the initial funding character for the SECO engagement, they failed to do so for City and Canton of Zurich.

In phases of tightening public budgets, it is not realistic for them to get the approval for contributions in the range of the initial fees defined in the AoA. This is especially the case for contributions to an association that is mainly carried by private sector players. Yet, public sector network partners are important for SSF's reputation and can support the objectives of the association through joint activities. Furthermore, there is the option that they support SSF by contributing to specific projects.

Argumentation

The link to public sector network partners is important for SSF with its aim to build bridges between different stakeholders. In order to not lose the existing public sector network partners, it is suggested to handle their fees in a more flexible way. This makes it possible to keep existing public sector partners on board and further build on their support for joint activities. It also leaves room to gain additional public sector network partners and negotiate an appropriate contribution with them, depending on their size and role for the Swiss financial centre.