



30.10.2013

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition 1477/2012 by Lasse Schuldt (German), and five co-signatories, concerning summertime arrangements throughout the year

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner calls for summertime arrangements to be applied throughout the year, arguing this would not only be more economical since it would no longer be necessary to adjust the time twice a year but would also avoid biorhythm disruptions and result in corresponding health benefits. He is accordingly seeking action by the European Parliament to alter the current summertime arrangements.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 30 April 2013. Information requested from Commission under Rule 202(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 30 October 2013

European Summertime is the arrangement by which clocks are advanced by one hour in spring and moved back in autumn, to make the most of seasonal daylight. The EU legislator decided to harmonise the application and the dates of the beginning and the end of summertime in the EU in directive 2000/84/EC of 19 January 2001 on summer-time arrangements¹. Such EU-wide arrangements facilitate for instance the co-ordination of train timetables in international traffic. This useful aspect has always been highlighted by the transport sector.

¹ OJ L 31, 2.2.2001, p. 21.

An application of summertime throughout the year would in reality be no longer a harmonised "summertime" regime. It would abolish summertime and impose on MS to change their standard time, i.e. advance it by one hour. The decision on the standard time, however, falls within the competence of Member States - and not that of the EU.

The purpose of EU rules has therefore not been to harmonise the time regime in the EU but to address the problems, notably for the transport sector, which arise from an uncoordinated application of clock-changes in the course of the year.

The Commission presented in 2007 a detailed report on the impact of the current summertime regime under Directive 2000/84/EC¹. This report was prepared on the basis of information, including studies, received from Member States, as well as on other information available at that time. To date, no further relevant information has been brought to the Commission's attention which would make it consider changing the existing EU legislation on summertime arrangements.

Conclusion

Based on the information available, the Commission is not of the opinion that introducing a year long summertime regime is an appropriate measure.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the European economic and social Committee under Article 5 of Directive 2000/84/EC on summer-time arrangements, COM (2007) 739.