



2018/0332(COD)

05.12.2018

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Transport and Tourism

on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council
on discontinuing seasonal changes of time
(COM(2018)639 – C8-0408/2018 – 2018/0332(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Ulrike Müller

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

In its resolution of 8 February 2018, the European Parliament called the European Commission to conduct an assessment on summer time arrangements and, if necessary, come up with a proposal for its revision.

Subsequently, the European Commission held a public consultation during the 2018 summer. The consultation showed a great support from the citizens to abolish the bi-annual change of clock.

The rapporteur underlines the will of the Parliament to listen to this clear demand from the European citizens. Therefore, the rapporteur supports the Commission proposal that was presented on 12 September 2018 to discontinue seasonal change of time.

Discontinuing seasonal change has several important implications. These implications concern the health of citizens because of the impact on biorhythm, but also the health of animals. The implications are also great regarding EU-harmonisation. The territories of the Member states stretch over three different time zones (GMT +1, +2 and +3) and any unprepared or non-coordinated approach could disturb the workings of single market. The competence to choose a standard time for its territory remains indeed in the hands of the Member states. Consequently, there is a high risk of fragmentation concerning the different time zones, as neighbouring countries could opt to switch to different time.

The rapporteur has also taken into account that the Austrian presidency did not make it a priority and that the Transport ministers remain divided on the issue when it was discussed during their meeting in October and June 2018 and December 2017.

Considering these limitations to the discontinuation of the summertime directive, the rapporteur proposes the following approach:

Coordination is crucial to ensure the functioning of the single market, for having a different time has implications on numerous of economic sectors and on the movements of citizens. This is especially true since the previous directive on time change was adopted when there were still only 15 member states. For these reasons, the rapporteur considers that **an entry into force on 1 April 2019 is too early and needs to be postponed to 2020** in order to allow member states to prepare for the change, but also to coordinate.

Notwithstanding the Member states competence to set, the rapporteur proposes to return to the wintertime as the standard time. As a year round summertime would technically represent a change of time zone, **all countries opting for wintertime as standard time would ease the process of discontinuing time change** and prevent the fragmentation between member states.

Similarly, another way to ease the process is **the coordination of Member states by groups of neighbouring countries and especially in line with the time zones (GMT +1, +2 and +3)** to preserve the current state of play.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on Transport

and Tourism, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a directive

Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3 a) In this context the situation of livestock farmers can serve as an example where the summer-time arrangements have been initially deemed incompatible with agricultural working practices, notably regarding the very early start of the working day already under standard time. Also, the bi-annual transition to summer-time made it harder to get the produce or animals out to the markets. And finally, due to cows sticking to their natural milking rhythm, a reduction of milk yields was assumed. However, modern agricultural equipment and practices have revolutionised farming in a way that makes most of these concerns no longer appear relevant while concerns regarding the biorhythm of animals as well as to farmers' working conditions still prevail.

Or. en

Amendment 2

Proposal for a directive

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7) This Directive should apply from 1 April **2019**, so that the last summer-time period subject to the rules of Directive 2000/84/EC should start, in every Member State, at 1.00 a.m., Coordinated Universal Time, on **31 March 2019**. Member States that, after that summer-time period, intend to adopt a standard time corresponding to

(7) This Directive should apply from 1 April **2020**, so that the last summer-time period subject to the rules of Directive 2000/84/EC should start, in every Member State, at 1.00 a.m., Coordinated Universal Time, on **29 March 2020**. Member States that, after that summer-time period, intend to adopt a standard time corresponding to

the time applied during the winter season in accordance with Directive 2000/84/EC should change their standard time at 1.00 a.m., Coordinated Universal Time, on **27 October 2019**, so that similar and lasting changes occurring in different Member States take place simultaneously. It is desirable that Member States take the decisions on the standard time that each of them will apply as from **2019 in** a concerted manner.

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Or. en

Amendment 3

Proposal for a directive Article 1 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, Member States may still apply a seasonal change of their standard time or times in **2019**, provided that they do so at 1.00 a.m., Coordinated Universal Time, on **27 October 2019**. The Member States shall notify this decision in accordance with Article 2.

Amendment

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, Member States may still apply a seasonal change of their **standard time** or times in **2020**, provided that they do so at 1.00 a.m., Coordinated Universal Time, on **31 October 2020**. The Member States shall notify this decision in accordance with Article 2.

Or. en

Amendment 4

Proposal for a directive Article 2 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1 a. When abolishing the bi-annual time change, Member States shall revert to standard (winter-time) as a matter of principle.

Or. en

Amendment 5

Proposal for a directive Article 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 2 a

For the purpose of ensuring a harmonised implementation of this Directive, a coordination of the new time arrangements shall be undertaken by the means of grouping the Member states in line with the three time zones: GMT+1, GMT +2, GMT +3.

Or. en

Amendment 6

Proposal for a directive Article 4 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Member States shall adopt and publish, by 1 April **2019** at the latest, the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive. They shall forthwith communicate to the Commission the text of those provisions.

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Or. en