E-1948/10EN Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission (17.5.2010)

The Commission presented in 2007 a 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, but also other information available.

As regards the energy savings caused by summertime, the report confirmed the results of earlier findings, namely that such savings are small when compared to total electricity consumptions (in France, for instance, savings of 0.014% of overall consumption in 2005, according to a recent survey).

The Commission has no evidence that summertime causes health risks to citizens. Experts agree that possible adaptation difficulties associated with the time change are temporary and do not constitute a serious threat to health.

The Commission does not advocate a removal of summertime. The report mentioned above has shown that the current arrangements have not constituted any subject of concern in the Member States – no Member State has ever requested a modification of the current arrangements. The Commission has no indication that the situation has changed since the report.

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 final.