



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 20.2.2019
C(2019) 1483 final*

*Mr Jaroslav KUBERA
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council discontinuing seasonal changes of time and repealing Council Directive 2000/84/EC {COM(2018) 639 final}.

The system of bi-annual clock changes has been increasingly questioned, by the European Parliament, by a growing number of Member States, and by citizens - as confirmed in the Commission's public consultation on EU summertime arrangements¹. Moreover, evidence suggests that the original purpose of seasonal time changes has become less relevant. In particular, sought energy savings have shown to be limited. Consequently, the Commission proposed on 12 September 2018 to discontinue the seasonal time changes in the Union, while ensuring that Member States retain the competence to decide on their standard time.

The proposal concerns seasonal time changes, which is governed by European Union's legislation since 1980. The decision on standard time, however, is not regulated at the European level but taken individually by each Member State. This said, the Commission shares the Senát's opinion that close coordination is needed amongst Member States when deciding whether they want to stay permanently with 'summertime' or whether to continue applying their current standard time (which is equivalent to what is referred to as 'wintertime'). Therefore, the Commission has strongly encouraged the Member States to assess the different elements affecting this national choice and to closely consult and coordinate with each other in choosing their permanent standard time.

As regards the transposition period, the Commission's proposed timing was based on the presumption that the Council and European Parliament would reach swift agreement on the proposal, by March 2019 at the latest. It is now clear that this will not be achieved and that the timing of entry into force of the Directive will need to be reviewed as part of the ongoing negotiations on the proposal.

¹ SWD(2018) 406 final

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Violeta Bulc
Member of the Commission*