



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 24.1.2019
C(2019) 311 final*

Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Cortes Generales for their 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 Commission welcomes the conclusion reached by the Cortes Generales that action at the level of the European Union is necessary to achieve the aim of this proposal.

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 demonstrated in the results of the Commission's public consultation {SWD(2018) 406 final}. 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 proposes to discontinue the seasonal time changes in the Union, while ensuring that Member States retain the competence to decide on their standard time.

The Commission's proposal is now being discussed in the European Parliament and the Council, which the Commission hopes will lead to a positive conclusion in the near future.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Cortes Generales in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Violeta Bulc
Member of the Commission*

*Ms Ana PASTOR
President of the
Congreso de los Diputados
Floridablanca s/n
E – 28071 MADRID*

*Mr Pio GARCÍA-ESCUADERO MÁRQUEZ
President of the Senado
Plaza de la Marina Española, 8
E – 28071 MADRID*