



## Ending the seasonal clock changes in the EU



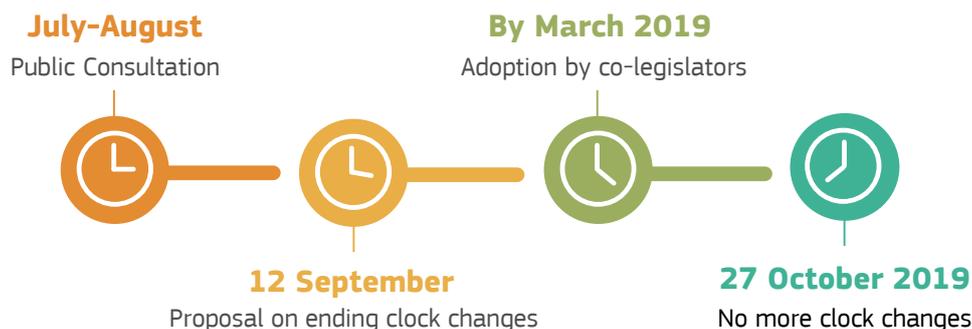
**The Commission proposes to end seasonal clock changes in 2019 throughout the EU.**

**Member States will be free to apply permanent summer or permanent wintertime.**



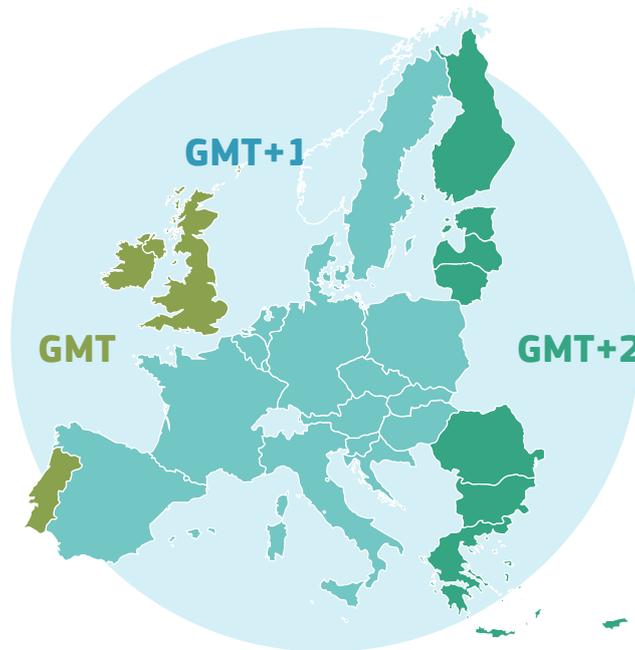
Putting an end to seasonal clock changes will benefit people and businesses, by eliminating negative health effects and costs associated with changing the clocks.

Under the Commission's proposal the last mandatory change to summertime would take place on Sunday 31 March 2019. After this, the Member States wishing to permanently switch back to wintertime would still be able to make one last seasonal clock change on Sunday 27 October 2019. Following that date, seasonal changes would no longer be possible. The European Parliament and the Council will now review the proposal.



This timeline is conditional on the European Parliament and the Council adopting the Commission's proposal by March 2019 at the latest.

## There are three time zones in the EU:



Historically, Member States introduced clock changes to save energy and align with their neighbouring countries. Today, the overall energy savings from changing the clocks are marginal. Internationally, the trend is to abolish such arrangements. In addition, such changes have been increasingly questioned by citizens, by the European Parliament and by a growing number of Member States. As part of an assessment of the current arrangements, the Commission organised a public consultation to gather views from citizens and stakeholders.

### Public consultation on seasonal clock changes in Europe

4.6

million of responses, the highest number of responses of any Commission public consultation

84%

of respondents were in favour of putting an end to clock changes

76%

of respondents consider changing the clock is a negative or very negative experience