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## **Proposing a solution to the socioeconomic challenges related to time changes**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Helsinki, 18.02.2023*

YEPP recognizes the significant impact that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has had on the global energy market. The war has caused energy prices to soar, particularly in Europe, where gas bills nearly doubled, and electricity costs spiked by 70% in the first six months of the war, according to the Household Energy Price Index.

YEPP acknowledges that in the past, Member States have chosen to introduce summer time arrangements at a national level, and in accordance with Directive 2000/84/EC, all Member States currently apply provisions relating to bi-annual seasonal changes of time. However, in 2018, the European Parliament approved the abolition of the obligation to change time twice a year, leaving the States the possibility to choose whether to continue the alternation or rather to opt for one or the other timetable.

We believe that maintaining summer time all year round, and not just in the summer months, would be beneficial for saving energy and countering high bills. In fact, a research carried out in Italy has proven that by abolishing winter time for six months of the year, would help in saving around one billion euros in the first two years alone, according to the Conflavore PMI study center.

YEPP also acknowledges the European Council's conclusions of 17-18 March 2016 on the 2030 climate and energy policy framework, which endorsed a binding target of at least a 40% domestic reduction in economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and the Union's commitment to decreasing its greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing removals in line with the Paris Agreement. In this regard, it has been proven that by approving the following resolution, there would also be a significant advantage from the point of view of reducing polluting emissions, with estimates of cutting emissions by 200,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, according Sima & Consumerismo.

Given the potential benefits of maintaining summer time all year round and the lack of action by Member States on the matter, YEPP calls for the European Institutions **to encourage** Member States **to decide** on whether or not to adopt the permanent use of “daylight saving time”. Additionally, YEPP calls for the European Institutions to carry out further investigations across each Member State to show the potential benefits of the abolition of seasonal time changes.

### Acknowledging that:

- (1) Russia's invasion of Ukraine has had a significant increase in energy prices in many parts of the world, particularly in Europe.<sup>1</sup>
- (2) According to the Household Energy Price Index, gas bills have nearly doubled, and electricity costs have increased by 70% in the first six months of the war.<sup>2</sup>
- (3) In accordance with Directive 200/84/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council,<sup>3</sup> all Member States currently apply provisions relating to biannual seasonal changes of time. Where, all Member States currently apply provisions relating to bi-annual seasonal changes of time. Normal time is changed to daylight saving time on the last Sunday in March and remains in effect until to the last Sunday of October of the same year.
- (4) The European Parliament, after a public consultation that took place between July and August 2018 and 84% of the votes in favour, approved the abolition of the obligation to change time twice a year in 2018, leaving Member States the option to choose whether to continue the alternation or opt for one timetable, from 2021.<sup>4</sup> In 2019, under the Finnish presidency a tool was created to assess the amount of daylight under three different scenarios. But at the moment none of the countries of the Union has legislated on the matter and few have declared their intentions.
- (5) Maintaining summer time all year round is an effective measure for saving energy and reducing high bills. An estimate by Conflavoro PMI,<sup>5</sup> the association that protects and represents small and medium enterprises, suggests that maintaining summer time could save up to 2.7 billion euros during 2023.<sup>6</sup>

### Recognising that:

- (6) The European Council in its conclusions of 17-18 March 2016 on the 2030 climate and energy policy framework endorsed a binding target of at least a 40% domestic reduction in economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/economic-bulletin/focus/2022/html/ecb.ebbox202204\\_01~68ef3c3dc6.en.html](https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/economic-bulletin/focus/2022/html/ecb.ebbox202204_01~68ef3c3dc6.en.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/commodities/europe-gas-bills-more-than-double-energy-crisis-electricity-costs-2022>

<sup>3</sup> Directive 2000/84/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 January 2001 on summer-time arrangements (OJ L 31, 2.2.2001, p. 21)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/630308/EPRS\\_BRI\(2018\)630308\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/630308/EPRS_BRI(2018)630308_EN.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.conflavoro.it/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.conflavoro.it/energia-risparmio-ora-legale-rassegna-stampa/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/climate-change/2030-climate-and-energy-framework/>



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- (7) The European Council conclusions of 23-24 October 2014 stated that the emissions reduction target of at least 40% should be delivered collectively by the Union in the most cost-effective manner possible, with the reductions in the European Union emissions.<sup>8</sup>
- (8) Abolishing winter time for six months of the year would result in a reduction of pollution emissions, cutting 200,000 tons of CO2 per year in Italy and improving human health.<sup>9</sup>
- (9) Ending the entire Spring and Fall DST would be equivalent to a small income gain of 32 euros per capita based on life satisfaction deviations analysis. <sup>10</sup>According to data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) from 2008 to 2018. In general , DST does influence negatively the mortality in Western Europe.<sup>11</sup>
- (10) European Parliament aiming to avoid a patchwork of time zones and the disruption of the single market and trade between member states highlighted the need for an impact assessment.
- (11) Terna estimated a saving for 420 million kWh in the 7 months in which Daylight Saving Time was effective, with a potential saving of 1.8 billion euros in Italy.<sup>12</sup>

#### **YEPP calls for:**

- (1) European Council, and the Transport Council to reopen the debate on this matter.-and take immediate actions towards a common position.
- (2) European Institutions to carry on further investigations across each Member States to assess the potential positive impact of the different seasonal time changes scenarios on economy and wellbeing at national and European level.

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<sup>8</sup> [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/145397.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/145397.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanepi/article/PIIS2666-7762\(22\)00222-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanepi/article/PIIS2666-7762(22)00222-8/fulltext)

<sup>10</sup> <https://docs.iza.org/dp14570.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-022-34704-9>

<sup>12</sup> [https://download.terna.it/terna/Terna\\_savings\\_daylight\\_saving\\_time\\_8da0bf0b8c3c4e7.pdf](https://download.terna.it/terna/Terna_savings_daylight_saving_time_8da0bf0b8c3c4e7.pdf)