


# Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive	1996/0082(COD) Procedure completed
Summer-time arrangements: 8th Directive	
Subject 3.60 Energy policy	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>TRAN</b> Transport and Tourism		26/03/1996
		NI <a href="#">BELLERÉ Spalato</a>	
	Former committee responsible		26/03/1996
	<b>TRAN</b> Transport and Tourism		
		NI <a href="#">BELLERÉ Spalato</a>	
	Former committee for opinion		
	<b>ECON</b> Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	<b>ENVI</b> Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		27/06/1996
		EDN <a href="#">BLOKLAND Johannes</a>	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Transport, Telecommunications and Energy</a>	<a href="#">2016</a>	17/06/1997
	Fisheries	<a href="#">1998</a>	14/04/1997
	<a href="#">Transport, Telecommunications and Energy</a>	<a href="#">1992</a>	11/03/1997
	<a href="#">Transport, Telecommunications and Energy</a>	<a href="#">1937</a>	19/06/1996

Key events			
25/04/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0106	Summary
08/05/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
19/06/1996	Debate in Council	<a href="#">1937</a>	
29/10/1996	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
29/10/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	<a href="#">A4-0333/1996</a>	
27/11/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary

28/11/1996	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T4-0639/1996	Summary
14/04/1997	Council position published	<a href="#">06684/1/1997</a>	Summary
24/04/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
21/05/1997	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		
21/05/1997	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	<a href="#">A4-0180/1997</a>	
10/06/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
11/06/1997	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T4-0288/1997	Summary
17/06/1997	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
22/07/1997	Final act signed		
22/07/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/08/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

### Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/0082(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 100A
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	TRAN/4/08800

### Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(1996)0106	25/04/1996	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	<a href="#">CES1074/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 030 30.01.1997, p. 0020</a>	25/09/1996	ESC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A4-0333/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 362 02.12.1996, p. 0005</a>	29/10/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T4-0639/1996 <a href="#">OJ C 380 16.12.1996, p. 0012-0021</a>	28/11/1996	EP	Summary
Council position	<a href="#">06684/1/1997</a> <a href="#">OJ C 157 24.05.1997, p. 0008</a>	14/04/1997	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1997)0720	21/04/1997	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	<a href="#">A4-0180/1997</a> <a href="#">OJ C 182 16.06.1997, p. 0003</a>	21/05/1997	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading	T4-0288/1997 <a href="#">OJ C 200 30.06.1997, p. 0060-0066</a>	11/06/1997	EP	Summary

### Additional information

## Final act

[Directive 1997/44](#)

[OJ L 206 01.08.1997, p. 0062](#) Summary

## Summer-time arrangements: 8th Directive

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OBJECTIVE: the proposal for a European Parliament and Council directive seeks to fix for a four-year period the dates and times at which summer time will begin throughout the Union after 1997. SUBSTANCE: in each Member State in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 summer time would begin at 1 a.m., universal time, on the last Sunday in March and end at 1 a.m., universal time, on the last Sunday in October. The arrangements applicable as from 2002 will be adopted before 1 January 2001 on a proposal from the Commission submitted before 1 January 2000. The directive will not apply to Member States' overseas territories. ?

## Summer-time arrangements: 8th Directive

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The Committee endorses the proposals in the Draft Directive. Despite their perceived shortcomings, the Committee commends the Report and the Study to interested parties in those Member States where any change is contemplated as providing some objective data on which to base their assessment of the position. The Committee endorses the Commission's statement that its task is confined to the harmonization of dates for the starting and ending of summer time and that any decision to alter other time arrangements in the individual Member States rests with them alone. ?

## Summer-time arrangements: 8th Directive

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The committee unanimously endorsed the eight directive on summer time arrangements, with the priority on harmonisation during the period from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October (as has been the case in the Member States since this year). The rapporteur, Mr Spalato BELLERE, stated that the majority of European Union citizens were in favour of keeping summer time, especially as account needed to be taken of regions in which summer time arrangements had different effects. Mr Thomas MEGAHY pointed out that the French proposals could affect the plenary sessions of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. MEPs' working conditions would deteriorate yet further if Strasbourg time was an hour different from Brussels time or 2 hours different from London time. In addition, frontier workers in France, Germany, Belgium and Spain would face huge problems as far as their working hours were concerned. Parliament considered that this type of decision should not rest with the Member States alone. Where possible, summer time in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 should start in each Member State at one o'clock universal time on the last Sunday in March, i.e. 29 March 1998, 28 March 1999, 26 March 2000 and 25 March 2001 and end on the last Sunday in October, i.e. 25 October 1998, 31 October 1999, 29 October 2000 and 28 October 2001. Mr Florus WIJSENBEEK's amendment calling for the Commission to ensure that there was no more than one hour's time difference between adjoining Member States was adopted.?

## Summer-time arrangements: 8th Directive

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## Summer-time arrangements: 8th Directive

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In adopting the report by Mr Spalato BELLERE (NI, I), Parliament approved the proposal for an Eighth Directive on the harmonization of summer-time arrangements, but leaving the Member States the option of not introducing it. In its amendments Parliament stipulated that summer-time dates are valid in each Member State 'where summer-time is applied'. It also called on the Commission to ensure that time differences between adjoining Member States do not exceed one hour. ?

## Summer-time arrangements: 8th Directive

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The common position corresponds to the Commission proposal. The dates and times at which summer time begins are fixed for a four-year period. In 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 in each Member State, summer time will begin at 1 a.m., universal time, on the last Sunday in March and end at 1 a.m., universal time, on the last Sunday in October. The common position stipulates that the arrangements covering the period as from 2002 should be adopted before 1 January 2001 on a proposal from the Commission submitted before 1 January 2000. The common position does not incorporate any of the three amendments tabled by Parliament at first reading. Those amendments sought to: - make the application of summer-time arrangements voluntary; - incorporate a provision stipulating that the Commission should ensure that the time differences between outlying Member States should never exceed one hour. ?

## Summer-time arrangements: 8th Directive

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The Commission agreed fully with the Council's common position. In addition, the Council and Commission considered, in a joint declaration, that the social and economic implications of summer time arrangements justified thorough examination before the eighth directive elapsed. The Commission would therefore forward a detailed report to the Council by 30 June 1999. The Council and the Commission agreed to carry out an in-depth examination of the implications of summer time arrangements, including the institutional aspects of coordination of times between the Member States of the European Union, with the aid of a group of representatives of interest groups and Member States' national experts.?

## Summer-time arrangements: 8th Directive

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The rapporteur said that he agreed with the Commission's aim of harmonising the dates for the beginning and end of summer-time. He also stressed the importance of ensuring the proper operation of transport and telecommunications services. Mr Belleré considered that the decision whether or not to apply this time system should be the exclusive responsibility of each Member State. He then regretted that the Commission and Council had not taken over, in the common position, Parliament's three amendments which took into account the principle of subsidiarity. Finally, the rapporteur said that he supported the harmonisation of summer-time and asked for a detailed report on its consequences, following consultation of representatives of interested sectors and national experts. Commissioner Kinnock welcomed the rapporteur's opinion which was favourable to parliamentary approval of the common position on this subject. He was also prepared to respond positively to those who wanted an in-depth examination of all the consequences of summer-time and announced that a report would be submitted on this issue during 1999.

## Summer-time arrangements: 8th Directive

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By adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mr Spalato BELLERE (NI, It), Parliament approved the common position of the Council with a view to the adoption of the eighth directive on summer time.?

## Summer-time arrangements: 8th Directive

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**OBJECTIVE:** to fix, for a four-year period, the dates and times at which summer time will begin throughout the Union after 1997. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** eighth European Parliament and Council Directive 97/44/EC on summer time. **CONTENT:** the directive provides that: In 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 in each Member State, summer time will begin at 1 a.m., universal time, on the last Sunday in March, that is to say: - in 1998: 29 March, - in 1999: 28 March, - in 2000: 26 March, - in 2001: 25 March. In 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 in each Member State, summer time will end at 1 a.m., universal time, on the last Sunday in October, that is to say: - in 1998: 25 October, - in 1999: 31 October, - in 2000: 29 October, - in 2001: 28 October. **DEADLINE FOR TRANSPOSITION:** 31/12/1997. ?