

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive	2000/0140(COD) Procedure completed
Summer-time arrangements: consequences and timetable for 2002 to 2006 (8th Directive 97/44/EC)	
Subject 3.60 Energy policy	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism		11/07/2000
		PSE HONEYBALL Mary	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		13/09/2000
	PPE-DE VLASTO Dominique		
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2324	20/12/2000
European Commission	Commission DG Energy and Transport	Commissioner	

Key events			
20/06/2000	Legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0302	Summary
03/07/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
22/11/2000	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
22/11/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0356/2000	
11/12/2000	Debate in Parliament		
12/12/2000	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0549/2000	Summary

20/12/2000	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
28/12/2000	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0892	Summary
19/01/2001	Final act signed		
19/01/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
02/02/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/0140(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 095
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2000)0302 OJ C 337 28.11.2000, p. 0136 E	20/06/2000	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0356/2000 OJ C 232 17.08.2001, p. 0007	22/11/2000	EP	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1432/2000 OJ C 116 20.04.2001, p. 0037	29/11/2000	ESC	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0549/2000 OJ C 232 17.08.2001, p. 0035-0061	12/12/2000	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal		COM(2000)0892 OJ C 154 29.05.2001, p. 0104 E	28/12/2000	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2007)0739	23/11/2007	EC	Summary

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Directive 2000/84 OJ L 031 02.02.2001, p. 0021 Summary

Summer-time arrangements: consequences and timetable for 2002 to 2006 (8th Directive 97/44/EC)

PURPOSE : to present a proposal for a Directive on summer-time arrangements in order to harmonise the beginning and end dates in every Member State. **CONTENT** : most of the Member States introduced summer-time during the 1970s, while others had taken such action much earlier for periods of greater or lesser length. The first Council Directive of 22 July 1980 on summer-time arrangements took effect in 1981. Its sole aim was gradually to harmonise the dates on which summer-time began and ended. The first Directive did not achieve that aim entirely since only the starting date was harmonised in all of the Member States. The subsequent Directives laid down two finishing dates: the last Sunday in September in the continental Member States and the fourth Sunday in October for Ireland and the United Kingdom. The timetable for summer time was fully and finally harmonised when the Seventh Directive 94/12/EC was adopted in 1994. This provided for common

starting and ending dates for summer-time in all of the Member States without exception, beginning in 1996. Finally, the Eighth Directive 97/44/EC of 22 July 1997 extended the arrangements under the Seventh Directive for a period of four years (1998-2001 inclusive). Consequently summer-time begins on the last Sunday in March and ends on the last Sunday in October throughout the European Union without exception. When the Member States adopted the 8th Directive after thorough legal consultation and extensive discussion they refused, by a broad majority, to include an exemption in the Directive that allowed one Member State not to apply the summer-time arrangements. In so doing, they felt that the Community Directive was binding in its entirety and that it required the application, at one and the same time, of summer-time arrangements and a common timetable for the dates and times when summer-time arrangements must begin and end. This Directive provides that from 2002 onwards, the summer-time period shall begin, in every Member State, at 1.00a.m, Greenwich Mean-Time, on the last Sunday in March and that it shall end in every Member State at 1.00 a.m on the last Sunday in October. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 31 December 2001 at the latest.?

Summer-time arrangements: consequences and timetable for 2002 to 2006 (8th Directive 97/44/EC)

The committee adopted the report by Mary HONEYBALL (PES, UK) approving the proposal under the codecision procedure (first reading).?

Summer-time arrangements: consequences and timetable for 2002 to 2006 (8th Directive 97/44/EC)

The European Parliament has approved, with amendments, the resolution by Mrs Mary HONEYBALL (PES, UK). The amendments seek to take into account the views of the transport, communications and industry sectors affected by the arrangements in the future and provide for the Member States and the EU institutions to put forward suggestions in response to a Commission report on the impact of summer-time arrangements.?

Summer-time arrangements: consequences and timetable for 2002 to 2006 (8th Directive 97/44/EC)

The amended proposal accepts the two amendments adopted by the European Parliament in its first reading.?

Summer-time arrangements: consequences and timetable for 2002 to 2006 (8th Directive 97/44/EC)

PURPOSE: to fix a common date and time for the beginning and end of the summer-time period throughout the Community. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Directive 2000/84/EC on summer-time arrangements. CONTENT: The main provisions of the Regulation are the following: - 'summer-time period' shall mean the period of the year during which clocks are put forward by 60 minutes compared with the rest of the year; - from 2002 onwards, the summer-time period shall begin, in every Member State, at 1 a.m., Greenwich Mean Time, on the last Sunday of March; - from 2002 onwards, the summer-time period shall end, in every Member State, at 1 a.m., Greenwich Mean Time, on the last Sunday in October. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 02.02.2001.?

Summer-time arrangements: consequences and timetable for 2002 to 2006 (8th Directive 97/44/EC)

Article 5 of Directive 2000/84/EC on summer-time arrangements provides that the Commission must submit a report on the impact of the Directive's provisions on the sectors concerned to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee. It also provides that the report is to be drawn up on the basis of the information made available to the Commission by each Member State by 30 April 2007. In presenting this report the Commission is fulfilling its obligations in accordance with Article 5.

The implications of summer time ? summary of the information provided by the Member States:

Twenty-five Member States sent the Commission their comments on the impact of the summer-time arrangements in their country. In summary, and based on the information forwarded to it, the Commission makes the following findings :

- No Member State is calling for changes to the current arrangements. The majority of the Member States stress the importance of harmonising the summer-time timetable in the EU, in particular as regards transport. Indeed Belgium is in favour of either maintaining the current arrangements or, alternatively, applying summer time throughout the year.
- Most Member States conclude that there is no indication of any significant impact of summer time on the economic sectors most affected in their country, i.e. agriculture, transport and tourism. In Latvia tourism experts regard summer time as having a positive impact on tourism. Italy reports that the construction and agriculture sectors benefit from summer time, particularly in the south of the country, due to the fact that it is cooler in the morning than it would be at the same time of the day without summer time.

New studies:

A few Member States sent in information on recent quantitative studies, relating to the impact of summer time on energy consumption, road safety and health. They are as follows :

Energy: Summer time helps to save energy since less electricity is used for lighting in the evening due to the fact that it is lighter. However, the increased energy consumption for heating during the morning when the time is adjusted and the higher fuel consumption caused by a potential increase in traffic in the evenings when it is lighter have to be deducted from these savings. Also, the savings actually achieved are difficult to gauge and in any event are relatively small. This is based largely on studies conducted in Bulgaria, Latvia, France, Estonia, Slovenia and Cyprus.

Road Safety: As regards road safety, the main question that needs to be addressed is whether darker mornings, in particular in spring and autumn, and lighter evenings have an impact on the number of traffic accidents. The lack of sufficient data and the interaction of other factors such as weather conditions do not enable a definite causal link between summer time and the number of accidents to be established. Two countries did conduct some studies into this question. In Estonia, a comparative study of the number of accidents involving fatalities and casualties 30 days before and after the time adjustments in 2004 to 2006 did not show any significant statistical variations of the annual number of accidents. Research by Estradas de Portugal did not reveal any direct link between summer time and road safety. This view has been confirmed by several transport experts.

Health: In 2003 and 2004 two Finnish studies looked into the impact on the body of changing the time in March, based on a sample of 10 people. The studies found some impact on sleep and biorhythm in the four days following the time change. However, the authors stress that the studies do not allow any conclusions to be drawn for the population as a whole because of the small size of the sample.

Public opinion:

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and France sent in the results of recent opinion polls or public consultation exercises (over the internet) on summer time. However, the very small number of recent surveys on this subject do not enable valid conclusions to be drawn, especially since the degree of representation and the results of the surveys vary from one country to the next.

Eurobarometer: A 1990 Eurobarometer survey found a satisfaction index of about 57.4% for the summer time in the European Community as a whole. A 1993 Euro barometer survey, taken on the date on which summer time ended, showed that a majority of citizens in the then EU-12 were in favour of summertime ending on the last day of October (54.5%) as opposed to the end of September (38.4%).

Contacts with associations and citizens: The Commission has been contacted regularly by ACHED, a French association opposed to summer time in France and Europe. No other associations, including associations in the various sectors concerned, made their opinion known to the Commission. However, the Commission occasionally receives correspondence from ordinary citizens calling for a change to the current arrangements (e.g. the abolition of summer time or the introduction of summer time all year round).

Conclusions:

The Commission concludes its report by stating that the main objective of the Directive remains valid. Current arrangements offer a wide range of evening leisure activities and some energy savings, whilst having little or no impact on overall economic activity. Against this background, the Commission takes the view that the summer-time arrangements, as introduced by the Directive, continue to be appropriate. No Member State has expressed a wish to abandon summer time or change the provisions of the current Directive. On the contrary, it is important to maintain the harmonised timetable to ensure the proper functioning of the internal market, which is the main objective of the Directive.