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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: AOB for the meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy  
Council on 8 June 2026  
Ongoing study on discontinuing seasonal time changes  
- Information from the Commission

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On 12 September 2018, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a Directive to discontinue seasonal time changes. After initial discussions, progress in the Council stalled in 2019. In 2025, the Polish Presidency of the Council presented a proposal for a two-year EU-wide trial of a permanent summertime arrangement. The proposal was examined by the Working Party on Intermodal Questions and Networks, where Member State delegations requested additional analysis to support decision-making. In response to these calls and in order to inform future decision-making on the subject, Commissioner Tzitzikostas announced a study to assess the impacts of discontinuing seasonal time changes.

The study was formally launched in February 2026 and is being conducted by a consortium composed of Ecorys, Capgemini, Stratec and CE Delft on behalf of the Commission. The study is expected to be concluded by the end of 2026. The overall objective is to provide further evidence concerning the impacts of a collective discontinuation of seasonal time changes and an evidence base for further discussions on the file.

The study will assess impacts across economic, social, and environmental domains under various implementation scenarios arising from the choice of Member States as to their permanent standard time (i.e. permanent summer- or permanent wintertime), covering both EU-wide discontinuation and partially harmonised configurations. This includes evaluating the effects of seasonal clock changes themselves, as well as the long-term consequences of permanent time regimes, including the implications of potential time differences across borders and new time borders between Member States or with third countries. The analysis will cover key impact areas – including the internal market, energy savings, transport, and public health.

To ensure robustness, the study design requires that the analysis adheres to the Commission's Better Regulation Guidelines relevant to impact assessments as much as possible. The consultation process follows a two-phase approach. The first phase, which ran from February to April, involved a dedicated questionnaire sent to Member State authorities, followed by interviews and a workshop which took place on 23 March 2026. This phase is now completed and has resulted in the definition of a set of ten implementation scenarios to be studied.

The second phase, currently underway, aims to gather evidence in support of subsequent analysis of impacts under the ten distinct scenarios and comprises questionnaires for Member State authorities and non-governmental stakeholders across affected sectors, targeted interviews, and a workshop scheduled for 30 June 2026. In parallel with the consultation activities, work is already underway to finalise the gap analysis in the existing evidence base on the subject, as well as to establish the baseline for subsequent impact modelling and an indicator framework for implementation-scenario assessment. In their reactions, Member States are invited to share their views on which impact areas related to seasonal time change they consider a priority.

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