

**Brussels, October 23, 2024**

**To the Council of the EU  
Dariusz Klimczak  
Piotr Serafin  
Łukasz Wojtas**

**JOINT LETTER TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Urgent Request for Action on the Abolishment of Seasonal Clock Time Changes**

Dear Mr. Dariusz Klimczak,  
Dear Mr. Piotr Serafin,  
Dear Mr: Łukasz Wojtas,

On the 27th of October 2024, clocks across the EU will once again be shifted from summer to winter time—a practice that should have been consigned to history long ago. As you are aware, the European Commission [proposed](#) abolishing seasonal time changes in 2018 following an [EU-wide consultation involving 4.5 million citizens](#). The European Parliament decisively backed this proposal in March 2019, as detailed in [its official decision](#)

Member States were expected to coordinate their positions by April 2020, choosing between permanent summer or winter time. The spring clock change of 2021 was meant to be the final instance for countries wishing to adopt permanent summer time, while those opting for permanent winter time were to make their final adjustment in October 2021. Crucially, Member States were to harmonize their approach to safeguard the internal market and prevent a fragmentation of time zones across the EU.

And yet, no progress has been made. The voices of EU citizens, who overwhelmingly supported this change, have been disregarded. The Council's inaction is delaying the necessary abolition of seasonal time changes and stalling the democratic mandate given by millions of Europeans. Time is of the essence, and a Council position must be established without further delay to honor the wishes of our citizens and preserve the integrity of the internal market.

We regret that our inquiry to the Council on February 21, 2024, resulted in a delayed and cursory response that has not led to any tangible action. Consequently, we are compelled to issue this open letter to strongly reiterate our core demands:

- 1. The incoming Polish Council Presidency must prioritize placing the issue of seasonal time changes on the Council's agenda without further postponement.**
- 2. The Council must push the European Commission to conduct a comprehensive follow-up assessment to revitalize the stalled debate and mediate between the differing stances of the Member States.**
- 3. The resolution of this matter must ensure the protection of the internal market and prevent a disjointed patchwork of time zones across the EU.**

This matter has lingered far too long. The Council's continued inaction is undermining the credibility of EU institutions and eroding public trust. We expect the necessary steps to be taken swiftly and efficiently.

We believe this continued inaction could lead to the erosion of public trust in EU institutions. We expect and we are confident that the Polish Presidency will take the necessary steps for achieving this much-needed change. We are looking forward to working together on this important topic.

Yours sincerely,

**Saskia Bricmont**, Member of the European Parliament

**Anna Cavazzini**, Member of the European Parliament