

To the EU Commission on DST

Chronobiology studies the influence of day-night rhythms and seasonal changes in living organisms (and received the Nobel Prize 2017 for these discoveries). As experts in biological clocks and sleep, we have been following the initiative of the European Commission to abandon the annual clock-time changes in spring and autumn in the EU. We would like to emphasize that the scientific evidence presently available indicates that installing permanent Standard Time (ST, or 'wintertime') is the best option for public health.

With ST there will be more morning light exposure in winter and less evening light exposure in summer. This will better synchronise the biological clock and people will sleep earlier relative to their work and school times (1). The feeling of chronic jetlag (Social Jetlag) will be reduced compared to daylight savings time, the body will function better and mental performance will improve. Throughout the year, ST will be healthier than daylight savings time (DST).

ST improves our sleep (1) and will be healthier for our heart (2) and our weight (3). The incidence of cancer will decrease (4), in addition to reduced alcohol- and tobacco consumption (5). People will be psychologically healthier (6) and performance at school and work will improve (7). Abandoning clock changes will offer the unique nation-wide opportunity to improve general health by installing Standard Time.

We would gladly explain our advice in more detail as required.

Sincerely,

European Biological Rhythms Society
European Sleep Research Society
Society for Research on Biological Rhythms
Society for Light Treatment and Biological Rhythms
Société Française de Recherche et Médecine du Sommeil
Société Francophone de Chronobiologie

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- 1) Kantermann et al. (2007) The human circadian clock's seasonal adjustment is disrupted by daylight saving time. *Current Biology* 17:1996-2000.
 - 2) Merikanto et al. (2013) Associations of Chronotype and Sleep With Cardiovascular Diseases and Type 2 Diabetes. *Chronobiol.Int.* 30:470-477.
 - 3) Roenneberg et al. (2012) Social Jetlag and Obesity. *CURRENT BIOLOGY* 22: 939-943.
 - 4) Borisenkov (2011) Latitude of Residence and Position in Time Zone are Predictors of Cancer Incidence, Cancer Mortality, and Life Expectancy at Birth. *Chronobiol.Int.* 28: 155-162.
 - 5) Wittmann et al (2006) Social jetlag: Misalignment of biological and social time. *Chronobiol.Int.* 23:497-509.
 - 6) Borisenkov et al. (2017) Seven-year survey of sleep timing in Russian children and adolescents: chronic 1-h forward transition of social clock is associated with increased social jetlag and winter pattern of mood seasonality. *Biological Rhythm Research* 48:3-12.
 - 7) Van der Vinne (2015) Timing of Examinations Affects School Performance Differently in Early and Late Chronotypes. *Journal of Biological Rhythms* 30:53-60.