

„Bei uns ist immer etwas los!“

## **DEUTSCHE FEIERTAGE, FESTE, UND MESSEN**

**ENDE DER SOMMERZEIT / WINTERZEIT / NORMALZEIT**

**END OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

**(last Sunday of Oktober, der 28. Oktober 2018)**

### **WILL NEXT SUNDAY'S SWITCH TO WINTER TIME BE THE LAST?**

In an EU-wide online survey, 84 per cent of respondents said they were in favour of abolishing time changes. Most requested permanent summer time. More than 4.6 million EU citizens gave their answers, a record for such an EU survey. At least three million of the respondents were in Germany.

"If people want it, we will do it," Juncker has said. The Commission has left it up to individual states to decide whether they'd like to maintain the status quo or stop the seasonal time switching. They have until April to decide.

Even if such a pace can be enacted, unusual by EU legislative standards, a majority of EU member states, as well as the European Parliament, would have to agree on the change. Since 1996 (1980 in Germany), in all EU countries the clocks are turned forward one hour on the last Sunday of March and back again an hour on the last Sunday of October.

The idea of abolishing the practice is still being discussed in a working group although disagreements have already erupted among member states. Some are pro, some against – many states have not yet taken a final position. Most are asking themselves: how could it affect the EU Single Market, trade in goods, rail or air traffic?

#### **A question of timing**

The Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which are one hour ahead of Central Europe, have spoken out in favor of the elimination of the change over and in favour of permanent summer time. Slovakia wants permanent winter time. Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa, on the other hand, is in favor of maintaining the six-month switch.

The EU has three time zones. The same time applies in Germany and 16 other states. Eight countries - including Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Greece and Cyprus - are one hour ahead. Three states are one hour behind, namely Ireland, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

Austria, which currently holds the revolving presidency of the EU Council, has already spoken in favour of a full-year summer time. However, the government in Vienna wants to coordinate with its neighbours to implement a uniform time zone in Central Europe. The Benelux countries - Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg - are reportedly undecided.