

„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?

Germany is leaning towards change. "Most people do not want to switch their clocks every six months, they want permanent summer time," says Peter Altmaier, Germany's finance minister. "People want to enjoy their free time in daylight after a hard day at the office or in school in winter, spring or autumn too. We will use the upcoming meetings at EU level to discuss this to reach agreement as quickly as possible," added Altmaier.

EU transport ministers are set to discuss the topic at a meeting behind closed doors in Graz, Austria, next week.

Rail companies would be able to adapt to any mutations in EU time zones by adding "local time" to arrival times, said a spokesperson for Germany's national rail company Deutsche Bahn. Such a system already exists for long-distance rail timetables, for example, for travel to Russia.

Airline fears

The aviation industry on the other hand would be more affected and its German lobby is calling for uniform regulation for the whole of Europe.

"The looming patchwork of individual nation-state regulations would considerably disrupt the flight planning of airlines and airports," explained the German Aviation Association (BDL).

It is difficult to reschedule flight lots even by one hour at busy airports, added the body. If winter time is abolished, some flights in the late evening in winter would take off later and thus extend into night-flight bans. "There is an acute risk that currently offered flights would no longer be viable," added the BDL.

In the European Parliament, on the other hand, there is more enthusiasm for the Commission's proposal: it must be adopted quickly, according to the health policy spokesman of the conservative EPP Group, Peter Liese (CDU).

"If we didn't have the time change, and today someone would come up with the idea of introducing it, everybody would think that person was crazy," said Liese.

According to a recent survey, more than 80 per cent of Germans are in favour of abolishing Daylight Saving Time.