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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

(Sixty-first session, 8-11 February 1999,  
agenda item 12(c))

APPLICATION OF SUMMER TIME

Note by the secretariat

Introduction

1. Commission decisions concerning this subject appear in annexes 1-4.
2. Comments made and decisions taken within the framework of the fifty-second session of the Working Party on Rail Transport (5-7 October 1998) and the sixtieth session of the Inland Transport Committee (12-16 January 1998) are reproduced below.

Inland Transport Committee

3. At its sixtieth session, the Committee learned from the representative of the European Commission that, according to the Eighth Directive of the European Parliament (EP) and of the EU Council (22 July 1997), a harmonized beginning and end of summer time had been determined in the European Union for the years 1998 to 2001, i.e. the last Sunday in March and the last Sunday in October.

Please note that the distribution of documentation for the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) is no longer "restricted". Accordingly, the secretariat has adopted a new numbering system whereby all working documents will be numbered as follows: TRANS/year/serial number. Reports, provisional agendas, resolutions and major publications will continue to follow the previous numbering system (i.e. ECE/TRANS/124).



4. Bearing in mind the advantages of common dates for the application of summer time for ECE member countries, the Committee, supporting the position of the Working Party, urged Governments to ensure also in future a harmonized beginning and end of summer time in Europe.

5. The Committee requested Governments to study the possibility of extending summer time for a longer period and to provide that a medium-term period be applied for the same years in all European ECE countries (ECE/TRANS/125, paras. 91-92).

Principal Working Party on Rail Transport

6. The Working Party took note of a document prepared by the secretariat on an overview of summer time arrangements in Europe (TRANS/SC.2/1998/16).

7. Bearing in mind the advantages of common dates for the application of summer time for ECE member countries, the Working Party reiterated its appeal to Governments to pursue also in future the goal of a harmonized beginning and end of summer time in Europe.

8. In order to continue its discussion of summer time arrangements, the Working Party asked Governments and the EC to provide the secretariat with information on summer time arrangements to be considered at its next session.

9. Furthermore, the Working Party requested Governments to study the possibility of extending summer time for a longer period and to provide that a medium-term period be applied for the same years in all European countries (TRANS/SC.2/190, paras. 70-76).

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10. In order to prepare the basis for further discussion in relation to items concerning the application of summer time, the secretariat is providing information on:

- (i) changes in official time (summer time) in European ECE member countries in 1998 (see annex 5); previous information on summer time arrangements was circulated in 1996, 1997 and 1998 in documents TRANS/R.438, TRANS/SC.2/1997/6 and TRANS/1998/5;
- (ii) the application of summer time over a medium-term period (see annex 6).

11. This information is based on inquiries undertaken by the ECE secretariat during the sixtieth session of the Inland Transport Committee (12-16 January 1998) as well as on data provided subsequently by competent authorities of the countries concerned.

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Annex 1

DECISION H (38) ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
AT ITS THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H (38) INTRODUCTION AND HARMONIZATION OF SUMMER TIME IN EUROPE

The Economic Commission for Europe decided:

1. To take note of the Executive Secretary's report E/ECE/1056, the recommendations of the Inland Transport Committee and document TRANS/R.174;

2. To recommend:

(i) that all Governments which introduce or intend to introduce summer time should pursue their efforts to standardize over a medium-term period the application of summer time in European member countries of the ECE;

(ii) that in case this should encounter difficulties, Governments should decide upon summer time at least one year before its introduction and inform the Executive Secretary accordingly;

(iii) that Governments might determine henceforth the transition to summer time on the last Sunday in March and the end of summer time on the last Sunday in September;

3. To request the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of this decision.

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Annex 2

DECISION F (39) ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
AT ITS THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

F (39) INTRODUCTION AND HARMONIZATION OF SUMMER TIME IN EUROPE

The Economic Commission for Europe decided:

1. To take note of the Executive Secretary's report E/ECE/1074, the recommendations of the Inland Transport Committee and document TRANS/R.201;
  2. To recommend that all Governments continue to pursue their efforts to standardize over a medium-term period the application of summer time in European member countries of the ECE;
  3. To recommend also that efforts be undertaken by Governments with a view to standardizing the hour of transition at the beginning and end of summer time; and
  4. To request the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fortieth session on the implementation of this decision (E/ECE(XXXIX/L.13).
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Annex 3

DECISION E (42) ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
AT ITS FORTY-SECOND SESSION

E (42) APPLICATION OF SUMMER TIME

The Economic Commission for Europe decided:

1. To reiterate its invitation to all the ECE member countries to introduce summer time in line with its decisions H (XXXVIII) and F (XXXIX);
  2. To recommend that in future the hour of transition at the beginning and end of the summer time period be 1 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time as agreed upon at the forty-sixth session of the Committee (ECE/TRANS/61, paragraph 188);
  3. To recommend that summer time be standardized over the longest possible period of time but not less than three years.
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Annex 4

DECISION G (43) ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
AT ITS FORTY-THIRD SESSION

G (43) SUMMER TIME

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Taking note of the Executive Secretary's report E/ECE/1159,

1. Reiterates its invitation to all European ECE member countries to introduce summer time in line with its decisions H (XXXVIII), F (XXXIX) and E (42);
  2. Invites Governments of ECE member States to consider making provisions in such a way that a medium-term period of summer time will be applied for the same years in all European ECE countries;
  3. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of this decision.
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Annex 5

APPLICATION OF SUMMER TIME IN EUROPEAN ECE MEMBER COUNTRIES IN 1998

	APPLI- CATION OF SUMMER TIME		PERIOD		HOUR OF TRANSITION IN RELATION TO LOCAL TIME <u>1</u> /		
	Y E S	N O	FROM	TO	AT THE BEGIN- NING OF SUMMER TIME	AT THE END OF SUMMER TIME	SUM- MER TIME
ALBANIA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
ANDORRA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
AUSTRIA */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
BELARUS	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+3	3am.GMT+4	GMT+4
BELGIUM */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
BOSNIA- HERZEGOVINA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
BULGARIA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+2	3am.GMT+3	GMT+3
CROATIA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
CYPRUS	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
CZECH REPUBLIC	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
DENMARK */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
ESTONIA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	3am.GMT+2	4am.GMT+3	GMT+3
FINLAND */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	3am.GMT+2	4am.GMT+3	GMT+3
FRANCE */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
GERMANY */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
GREECE */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	3am.GMT+2	4am.GMT+3	GMT+3
HUNGARY	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
ICELAND		X					
IRELAND */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	1am.GMT	2am.GMT+1	GMT+1
ITALY */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
LATVIA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	3am.GMT+2	4am.GMT+2	GMT+2
LIECHTENSTEIN	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
LITHUANIA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	3am.GMT+2	4am.GMT+3	GMT+3
LUXEMBOURG */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2



MALTA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT.2	GMT.2
MONACO	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
NETHERLANDS */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3AM.GMT+2	GMT+2
NORWAY	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
POLAND	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
PORTUGAL */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	1am.GMT	2am.GMT+1	GMT+1
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+3	3am.GMT+4	GMT+4
ROMANIA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	3am.GMT+2	4am.GMT+3	GMT+3
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+3	3am.GMT+4	GMT+4
SAN MARINO	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
SLOVAKIA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
SLOVENIA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
SPAIN */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
SWEDEN */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
SWITZERLAND	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2
TURKEY	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	1am.GMT+2	2am.GMT+3	GMT+3
UKRAINE	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	3am.GMT+2	4am.GMT+3	GMT+3
UNITED KINGDOM */	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	1am.GMT	2am.GMT+1	GMT+1
YUGOSLAVIA	X		29 MAR	25 OCT	2am.GMT+1	3am.GMT+2	GMT+2

1/ It is recalled that in accordance with Commission decision E (42) the hour of transition at the beginning and end of the summer time period should be 1 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time.

\*/ Member countries of the European Union.

EUROPEAN ECE MEMBER COUNTRIES APPLYING SUMMER TIME IN 1998

	Beginning	End
	29.3	25.10
ALBANIA		
ANDORRA		
AUSTRIA		
BELARUS		
BELGIUM		
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA		
BULGARIA		
CROATIA		
CYPRUS		
CZECH REPUBLIC		
DENMARK		
ESTONIA		
FINLAND		
FRANCE		
GERMANY		
GREECE		
HUNGARY		
IRELAND		
ITALY		
LATVIA		
LIECHTENSTEIN		
LITHUANIA		
LUXEMBOURG		
MALTA		
MONACO		
NETHERLANDS		
NORWAY		
POLAND		
PORTUGAL		
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA		
ROMANIA		
RUSSIAN FEDERATION		
SAN MARINO		
SLOVAKIA		
SLOVENIA		
SPAIN		
SWEDEN		
SWITZERLAND		
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA		
TURKEY		
UKRAINE		
UNITED KINGDOM		
YUGOSLAVIA		

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Annex 6

Application of summer time in European ECE member countries for the years:

	1998	1999	2000	2001
Albania	x			
Andorra	x			
Austria */	x	x	x	x
Belarus	x	x	x	x
Belgium */	x	x	x	x
Bosnia-Herzegovina	x			
Bulgaria	x	x	x	x
Croatia	x	x	x	x
Cyprus	x			
Czech Republic	x	x	x	x
Denmark */	x	x	x	x
Estonia	x			
Finland */	x	x	x	x
France */	x	x	x	x
Germany */	x	x	x	x
Greece */	x	x	x	x
Hungary	x	x	x	x
Iceland				
Ireland */	x	x	x	x
Italy */	x	x	x	x
Latvia	x			
Liechtenstein	x			
Lithuania	x			
Luxembourg */	x	x	x	x
Malta	x			
Monaco	x			
Netherlands */	x	x	x	x
Norway	x	x	x	x
Poland	x	x	x	x
Portugal */	x	x	x	x
Republic of Moldova	x			

	1998	1999	2000	2001
Romania	x	x	x	x
Russian Federation	x	x	x	x
San Marino	x			
Slovakia	x	x	x	x
Slovenia	x	x	x	x
Spain <u>*/</u>	x	x	x	x
Sweden <u>*/</u>	x	x	x	x
Switzerland	x			
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia				
Turkey	x	x	x	
Ukraine	x	x	x	x
United Kingdom <u>*/</u>	x	x	x	x
Yugoslavia <u>**/</u>	x	x		

\*/ Member countries of the European Union.

\*\*/ Any data provided under the heading "Yugoslavia" relate to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which, in accordance with General Assembly Resolutions 47/1 and 47/229, cannot continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

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