

Written Evidence – Turkish Industry & Business Association (TÜSİAD) (SCT0025)

The main reason for using the permanent summer time (PST) since 2016 is to save energy by making more use of sunlight in Turkey. PST application studies have a history of more than 40 years in our country. The first pilot implementation took place during 1977-1978 by the Ministry of Energy.

There is 1 hour and 16 minutes time difference between east and west of Turkey. Since the geographical width of the United Kingdom (UK) is far narrower than Turkey's, the amount of sunlight is similar throughout the UK.

Total savings in electricity consumption in the first year of the application was calculated as 1.3 billion kilowatt hours.

Before the implementation, the business community and all public institutions were consulted, and no major objection was encountered.

Government officials informed us that no negative feedback has been received from the Turkish Airlines and financial institutions which were expected to be affected the most from the transition to the PST application.

The Ministry of National Education stated that there was no decrease in students' academic achievements or physical wellbeing.

The Ministry of Health has not reported any negative effects on occupational accidents while the Ministry of Interior did not report any unusual increase in traffic accidents. Similarly, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services has noted that families and children have benefited from longer daylight hours by spending more time in public spaces.

There was no negative reaction from the European Union after the permanent application of daylight-saving time. Turkish officials said that the European Union allows the member states to set their own policy on this issue. Incidentally, the topic is on the agenda of the EU Parliament and the Council.¹

¹ Information on this can be found at:
(<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/seasonal-time-changes/>)

Our TUSIAD members reported the following issues resulting from the PST:

- During winter, when the UK reaches early afternoon, Turkey is fast approaching close of business due to the 3-hour time difference.
- Given the lack of a unified approach to the daylight-saving time across Europe, this constitutes an indirect barrier to trade in goods and services alike by reducing the common hours of business between Turkey and its European partners.

*Turkish Industry & Business Association (TÜSİAD) is the largest voluntary and independent business organization in Turkey. It is the association of the internationally integrated businesspeople. TÜSİAD is a member of BusinessEurope, Business at OECD (BIAC), the G20's Global Business Coalition and BRICA. It is the Turkish counterpart of Confederation of Business and Industry (CBI) in the UK and in Turkey's business spectrum TÜSİAD represents about:

- 80% of Turkey's exports
- over 50% of the private sector's employment
- 85% of the state corporate tax revenues.

Our work is organized through a system of round tables, expert committees, representative offices, SME and youth platforms, academic forums and international partnerships. We have representative offices in Ankara, Brussels, Washington DC, Paris, Berlin and London alongside with our networks in China and Silicon Valley.

Acknowledging Turkey - UK burgeoning relations, TUSIAD has established a permanent base in London headed by Dr. Hasan Turunç in 2015. TUSIAD London focus on the following areas:

- strengthening political and public relations
- expanding business, commercial, financial and trade relations
- building bridges between Turkish-British civil society, think tanks and academia.

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