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Onderwerp: SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 23-05-2008

SOLIDAR in action for social protection and decent work

Today only 20 percent of the world's population has adequate social security coverage, while more than half the world's population lacks any type of social security protection. Even in countries with high economic growth, an increasing number of workers are in less secure employment lacking social security coverage. Against this background, the SOLIDAR Secretariat and its Austrian Member Volkshilfe have been involved in 2 parallel activities in Brussels and Vienna aimed at exploring mechanisms to strengthening **social protection coverage in developing countries**. [Read more...](#)

SOLIDAR advocates strengthening and broadening Social Protection coverage for all. [Sign the Call to Action for Decent Work](#)

Civil Society Forum of EU-LAC countries calls for change of direction

The Enlazando Alternativas 3 summit which took place in Lima at the end of last week brought together civil society from Latin America, the Caribbean (LAC) and Europe for the third time. The main issue dominating the agenda was the question of trade, and in particular, the EU's Global Europe strategy which prioritises competition and economic growth, market access for multinational companies and entrenches widely discredited policies of International Financial Institutions such as privatisation and commodity speculation, all of which are incompatible with the discourse of climate change, poverty reduction and social cohesion, according to the summit's final declaration. [Read more...](#)

Find out [more information](#)

SOLIDAR Consortium in Sri Lanka Weekly Update

Sri Lanka was voted out from the UN Human Rights Council in New York on 21 May despite the intense campaign carried out by Sri Lanka's Government seeking a re-election. This outcome has been hailed by human rights activists both national and international who criticised the Sri Lankan Government's low standard human rights record in the recent months since the intensification of its war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

A dramatic increase in the number of incidents involving torture, disappearance of Tamils living in Government-controlled Southern areas and attacks on journalists and aid workers have been observed during the past months. The government has been blamed for failing to bring those responsible to justice. Meanwhile, deliverance of humanitarian assistance to conflict affected IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) in LTTE-controlled Northern areas have been gravely hampered by the restrictions on access for humanitarian agencies, visa denials, and highly bureaucratised new procedures for transporting essential items including medicine and fuel into LTTE-controlled areas. Under the leadership of the UN's Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) SOLIDAR's INGO Consortium and other humanitarian agencies will continue to lobby for improvements to the current constraints.

Egyptian Government disregards court sentence to register CTUWS as NGO

In spite of successive applications from the Center for Trade Union and Workers Services (CTUWS), which was awarded a SOLIDAR Silver Rose Award in 2000 for their struggle to promote workers' rights in Egypt, and an issuance by the Administrative Court, the Ministry of Social Solidarity has still not registered CTUWS as an NGO as Egyptian officials refuse to formalise the registration applications before they get the green light from security

bodies. Meanwhile CTUWS branches have been closed by security forces and the Egyptian Trade Union Federation, with the support of some government parties, are holding the CTUWS responsible for the workers' strikes and protests which took place in Egypt lately.

[Send your message of solidarity for the CTUWS](#)

Zimbabwe Update

We are happy to announce that Wellington Chibebe and Lovemore Matombo, leaders from the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) who were arrested following giving speeches at May Day rallies, have been released on bail. The two are barred from addressing any political gathering whilst the matter is still pending and their court case will be heard at Harare Magistrate's Courts today, 23 May. The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) has spoken to Wellington Chibebe, who assured them that apart from the moral prejudice, they have not suffered whilst in prison. Raymond Majongwe, General Secretary of the Progressive Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ), who was arrested on 16 May, was released shortly after and no charges were leveled against him.

SOLIDAR Social Europe Conference - 25 June

SOLIDAR and its French members and the 'Maison de l'Europe' will jointly organise a conference on Social Europe on 25 June in Paris. The conference will discuss two main issues: (Social) Services of General Interest and Decent Work and Decent Life/Building Inclusive Societies.

This is a unique opportunity for SOLIDAR members to gather their forces together before the start of the French EU Presidency to create a joint statement on social Europe which will be presented in person by SOLIDAR to the French Presidency.

Interpretation into English, French and German will be available. [Register now!](#)

See the conference programme in [English](#), [French](#), [German](#)

Read the letter of invitation in [English](#), [French](#), [German](#)

Citizens' Agora on Climate Change

On 12-13 June, the second Citizens' Agora on Climate Change will take place in Brussels. Representatives from civil society, professional organisations and trade unions will enter into direct dialogue with European institutions by discussing with Members of the European Parliament and representatives from the European Institutions on climate change issues. SOLIDAR member MPDL (Movimiento por la paz el desarme y la libertad), together with representatives of other SOLIDAR members, will participate in the event. [Read more about MPDL's actions on the social impacts of climate change...](#)

[Visit the Citizens' Agora website](#)

Hands off our Coops!

SOLIDAR member LegaCoopBund is circulating a petition from Cooperatives Europe which will be presented to President Barroso of the European Commission and Competition Commissioner Kroes, calling for fair political and legal framework conditions (in particular for national cooperative laws and tax rules) which take into account the specificities of (social) cooperatives, and their contribution to the general interest of society. Cooperatives, an important part of the social economy, fear that European institutions may give in to pressure from private enterprises who claim an unjustified preferential treatment of cooperatives. SOLIDAR invites you to support cooperatives around Europe.

[Find out more about the petition](#)

[View the Cooperatives Europe website \(in EN & FR\)](#)

Future of EU Cooperation in Education and Training

EUCIS - LLL and DG Education and Culture organised a European stakeholders' forum on the future of EU cooperation in education and training on 20 May 2008. The Commission

plans to come forward in December 2008 with a proposal for an updated strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training. Jean-Marc Roirant, Chair of EUCIS - LLL and Chair of the Board of SOLIDAR, has supported the work of the Commission on this matter.

SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards - Nominations still open

There is still time for you to nominate an individual or organisation who has contributed to the struggle for a just and civil society. The awards will be presented at a ceremony, hosted by Harlem Désir MEP, on the 15 October in the European Parliament.

To find out more and make a nomination

3	SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee meeting, Brussels
3-4	SOLIDAR New Orientation Framework (NOF) meeting - Madrid, Spain
12-13	European Parliament 2 nd Citizens Agora on Climate Change, Brussels
25	SOLIDAR France & SOLIDAR network: For a Social Europe-Pour une Europe Sociale, Maison de l'Europe, Paris
2	SOLIDAR Annual General Meeting
4-6	European Civic Forum - mobility, dialogue, participation: towards an active European citizenship", La Rochelle, France
15	SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards 2008 and 60 Years Anniversary, Brussels
28-29	2 nd Forum on Social Services of General Interest, Paris
30-2	Volonteurope 2008, Genoa, Italy

SOLIDAR is a European network of 42 members working for social and economic justice in Europe and around the world. SOLIDAR's Weekly Round Up provides you with the latest information and news from SOLIDAR and our members, as well as other issues of interest and European developments.

If you have any comments or wish to have further information on any of the articles featured in the Weekly Round Up, please do not hesitate to contact SOLIDAR's Communications Officer [Abigail](#)

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