

Van: Solidar <Abigail.Gountry@solidar.org>

Aan: veerle.solia@amsab.be

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Onderwerp: SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 06-06-2008

Report Calling for Review of Posting Workers Directive to Secure Decent Working Conditions in Europe

Presented last week at the European Parliament's Employment Committee, MEP Jan Andersson's draft report on 'Challenges to collective agreements in the EU' is a clear and straightforward reaction to the December 2007 and April 2008 European Court of Justice (ECJ) rulings (Viking, Laval and Rüffert cases).

With its call for ensuring a *"necessary balance between the free movement of services and the right of workers"*, the report reaffirms the fundamental value of the principle of non-discrimination, that is to say equal pay for equal work, to avoid unfair competition on wages and on working conditions (which has already lead to xenophobic prejudices and behaviours) and in order to ensure that the Lisbon Treaty's objective of improving living and working conditions is fulfilled. [Read more...](#)

SOLIDAR is campaigning for Decent Work to be at the heart of European Internal and External policies.

Social implications of the Food crisis

After the high-level meetings of the Food and Agriculture Organisation held in Rome on 2-5 June, SOLIDAR is disappointed as yet another high level government conference has failed to tackle the real issues at hand by introducing an immediate change of policy. This emergency meeting was called to discuss the causes of the current "food crisis" and find solutions to what is proving to be an urgent humanitarian issue in many developing countries and an issue that pre-occupies the minds of more and more European citizens who are finding it hard to make ends meet as food prices rise whilst their incomes remain stagnant. [Read more...](#)

Update from SOLIDAR's Sri Lanka Consortium

The humanitarian operations in conflict affected areas continue to be impeded by severe fuel shortages due to the strict government control of fuel and other material transportation into Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) controlled areas. One of the serious problems confronting the SOLIDAR Consortium is the delay in granting of work visas for staff particularly for those who have already been issued contracts by Norwegian People's Aid. Absence of visa permission for staff could endanger SOLIDAR's project activities in Sri Lanka.

The European Commission talks Active Inclusion

At the SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee meeting which took place in Brussels on 3 June, guest speaker, Michele Calandrino, from the European Commission's DG Employment, talked to the participants about the Active Inclusion dossier; how the European Commission sees it, where they are with it and its link to Social Services of General Interest (SSGIs). Michele explained that the Commission has already had two consultations on this topic and is now in the process of elaborating common principles, working in rather a new way by involving Members States, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Committee of Regions (CoR) on the three strands of the active inclusion policy i.e. minimum income, labour market inclusion and access to quality services. [Read more...](#)

Decent Work Decent Life Campaign at Salon des Solidarités in Paris

On Friday 6 June, SOLIDAR's French members Solidarité Laïque will bring the Decent Work Decent Life Campaign to the Salon des Solidarités in Paris. With more than 20,000 visitors expected, the Salon des Solidarités is the biggest French gathering for development cooperation and humanitarian aid organisations, associations and think tanks.

The photo exhibition 'Time for Decent Work Decent life' (produced in the framework of EuropeAid funded Jobs Jobs Jobs project) will open the activities and will be followed by a workshop on Sunday 8 June where the Call to Action for Decent Work will be presented.

[See the exhibition](#)

CTUWS calls for action at the 97th ILO conference

The Center for Trade Union and Workers Services (CTUWS) is calling upon the International Labour Movement to express solidarity with Egyptian workers to support their right to express their demands and interests freely and to organise themselves according to their own will. Two messages were sent to CTUWS by Egyptian workers' organisations explaining the reasons why they do not feel they are properly represented by the President of the Egyptian trade union as well as by the Egyptian delegation participating in the 97th ILO Conference.

[Read the full messages](#)

Public hearing: Access to lifelong learning for disabled people

The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) is organising a public hearing on "Access to lifelong learning for disabled people" on 1 July 2008 in Brussels from 14.00-17.00, in partnership with the European Economic and Social Committee. It aims to share experiences and expertise on the inclusion of disabled persons in education and training systems. Three best practice examples from EUCIS-LLL's members and partners will be presented by Arnold Wessels (Entraide Universitaire, member of SOLIDAR member UNALG), Luk Zederloo (European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)) and Johan Ten Geuzendam (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal opportunities).

This event will be preceded by a SOLIDAR Education Committee meeting, taking place from 10-12.30.

[Register for the public hearing](#)

Nominate an MEP in the MEP Awards

The Parliament Magazine hosts their annual MEP Awards to recognise and celebrate the work that MEPs have devoted to a range of policy areas over the past year. The nominations are still open and SOLIDAR members are encouraged to nominate MEPs in the relevant categories.

[To nominate an MEP](#) and [Read more about the awards](#)

Israeli Jewish-Arab Delegation Visit South Tyrol

SOLIDAR member, Legacoopbund, together with the Italian Center for Peace in the Middle East (CIPMO), has organised for 12 Israeli experts - Jews and Arabs - to visit Bolzano, in order to study the experience of the German-speaking minority (as well as that of the Ladin speaking one) in Italy.

[Find out more](#)

Solidaridad Internacional on Fair Trade

SOLIDAR Spanish member Solidaridad internacional is carrying out a campaign on Fair Trade.

[See their website campaign in Spanish](#)

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
1	SOLIDAR Education Committee Meeting, Brussels
1	EUCIS-LLL Public hearing on Access to Lifelong Learning for Disabled Adults, Brussels
2	SOLIDAR Annual General Meeting
4-6	European Civic Forum - mobility, dialogue, participation: towards an active European citizenship", La Rochelle, France
10-11	SOLIDAR Final Jobs Jobs/Decent Work Conference, Brussels
19-21	SOLIDAR delegation at European Social Forum, Malmö, Sweden
22-23	SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Baltic Conference on Decent Work, Riga
7	World Day For Decent Work - Call to Action handover, Brussels and International
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](#)

Tel +32 2 500 1020 Fax +32 2 500 1030
 Rue du Commerce 22, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium
 Solidar acknowledges the support of the European Union
www.solidar.org

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