

## **"A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION BUT STILL WEAK EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SOLIDARITY MEASURES" - SOLIDAR RESPONSE TO THE EU'S RENEWED SOCIAL PACKAGE & REPORT ON DECENT WORK**

SOLIDAR welcomes two documents issued by the European Commission on 2 July - the Renewed Social Agenda and the "EU contribution to the promotion of decent work in the world" Report - as both documents contain a number of concrete measures which are positive steps in strengthening Europe's social dimension and its role in promoting a fair globalisation. These documents are a step in the right direction but are still missing the principle of equal opportunities for the most vulnerable in Europe and solidarity for people in third countries who live with the consequences of an aggressive EU trade policy. [Read more...](#)

### **SOLIDAR RESOLUTION "Together for a Social Europe"**

On 25 June, SOLIDAR organised a conference in Paris dealing with the future of Social Europe, (social) services of general interest and decent work. Participants discussed a broad range of issues around two key questions: how to strengthen the social and citizenship dimension of the European integration and how to guarantee a broad and active involvement of citizens and civil society organisations in the Member States and at European level.

A resolution "Together for a Social Europe", adopted by participants at the conference, highlights the potential of an Open Method of Coordination in the fields of social protection, social inclusion, migration and integration with strong participatory and mutual learning elements. The resolution will be presented to the French EU Council Presidency, to the forthcoming Czech and Swedish EU Council Presidencies in 2009, to European institutions, policy makers and governments across Europe.

Read this document in [English](#), [French](#), [German](#) and [Italian](#).

### **SOLIDAR WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS FROM CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE**

During the SOLIDAR General Assembly on 2 July, 5 new members were warmly welcomed into the family, 4 of which from the New Member States of Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania and Malta. Together with the Baltic Platform (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), SOLIDAR is now represented in 7 of the 12 New Member States. SOLIDAR also welcomed DGB Bildungswerk from Germany into the family.

The Polish and Czech organisations are think tanks providing analysis on social and economic policy developments. The Maltese and Czech organisations are more oriented towards an international agenda, with the Maltese working on humanitarian aid and development issues and the Czech organisation's having a particular interest in the Balkans region. The German organisation is the training institute of the federal trade union association. SOLIDAR is looking forward to their further involvement in the network.

Presentations on these organisations will be available as of next week on the SOLIDAR website.

### **SOLIDAR RESOLUTION ON ZIMBABWE**

The SOLIDAR General Assembly adopted a resolution on the situation in Zimbabwe.

[Read the Resolution](#)

### **Legacoopbund welcomes Israeli Arabs and Jews to South Tyrol**

SOLIDAR member Legacoopbund welcomed 12 academics, members of civil society organisations and local authorities from Israel - both Arabs and Jews - to South Tyrol from 27-31 May 2008 to study

the relationship between citizens from different ethic groups in the area.

[Read the project evaluation in Italian](#)

4-6	European Civic Forum - mobility, dialogue, participation: towards an active European citizenship", La Rochelle, France
10-11	<b>SOLIDAR Final Jobs Jobs Jobs/Decent Work Conference, Brussels</b>
19-21	<b>SOLIDAR delegation at European Social Forum, Malmö, Sweden</b>
22-23	<b>SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Baltic Conference on Decent Work, Riga</b>
7	<b>World Day For Decent Work - Call to Action handover, Brussels and International</b>
15	<b>SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards 2008 and 60 Years Anniversary, Brussels</b>
28-29	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Forum on Social Services of General Interest, Paris</b>
30-2	<b>Volonteurope 2008, Genoa, Italy</b>

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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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