

Dear members and friends of SOLIDAR,

The summer months are now finally upon us and I hope that you will all be able to use this break to recharge your batteries and find new energy for the numerous challenges coming up.

First, looking back in order to move forwards - last month saw SOLIDAR holding a successful **conference on Social Europe** in Paris on the eve of the French Presidency where we took a stand ([see conference resolution](#)) for the type of Europe we want: A Europe built on fundamental rights, solidarity, justice, equality, non-discrimination, on fair chances in life and decent working conditions for all, on full societal inclusion and the participation of all citizens, and on sustainable development.

In addition, leading the delegation of the Social Platform at the informal meeting of Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) council meeting on 10-11 July in Chantilly, together with other social NGOs **we have called for a new policy commitment in the form of a social 'pact' which reconnects Europe with its citizens' needs, expectations and hopes**. In spite or because of the Irish "NO", a window has opened and all responsible forces and decision makers should use this opportunity to send out a clear signal - [we need a mainstreaming of social issues in all EU policies!](#)

And looking forwards, we will continue working on the Decent Work Decent Life campaign together with our partners in the alliance: International Trade Union Confederation, European Trade Union Confederation, Social Alert International and Global Progressive Forum. We will not only be present at the **European Social Forum** from 19-21 September in Malmö but will also be organising the final **Jobs, Jobs, Jobs project conference** on 15 September in Brussels, as well as being out on the streets together with the trade unions for the **World Day of Decent Work on 7 October**.

At last week's **Annual General Assembly**, SOLIDAR's members decided on the shape of our organisation's reform process - a strengthening of the network and involving members more effectively - by voting in the New Orientation Framework "Together, Stronger!". Now we have the NOF, we will be able to tackle more strategic issues like the social consequences of, amongst others, the international financial crisis, the food crisis, climate change, the struggle for peace and human rights and dignity. These are challenges that SOLIDAR member organisations work on directly and daily and they deserve the Secretariat's full commitment in order to be more effective on the European and international level. We also welcomed 5 new members, 4 of them from New Member States which gives SOLIDAR an even more pan-European profile.

Last but definitely not least, the **Silver Rose Awards**, highlighting achievements by organisations and individuals working for social justice, will this year be a double event as we will also be celebrating **60 years of our organisation**. This event, hosted by the Socialist Group, will light up the European Parliament on 15 October. Remember to register at [silverrose@solidar.org](mailto:silverrose@solidar.org).

The Weekly Round Up will be back at the end of August!

In solidarity,

Conny Reuter - Secretary General

Commissioner Vladimir Spidla and Conny Reuter

#### **SLAVES IN BRUSSELS HOTEL**

This week 15 'slaves' have been freed from a five-star hotel in Brussels where many EU-related conferences and seminars are held. The servants, all believed to be women, were allegedly held captive for eight months by the widow of an emir from the United Arab Emirates and her daughters. In 1998 SOLIDAR carried out the Rights of Women Migrant Domestic Workers project which aimed at supporting migrant domestic workers both at a national level and, through the formation of a network, at the European level.

## UNVEILING THE 'EUROPEAN PACT ON IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM'

On 7 July 2008, an informal meeting of EU Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs took place in Cannes, at which France presented its plans on immigration and asylum, the '**European Pact on Immigration and Asylum**'. Civil Society Organisations are concerned by this policy as it is viewed as a protectionist policy from the French government. As SOLIDAR Secretary General Conny Reuter says "**SOLIDAR has consistently stated that undocumented migrants have rights, human rights and civil rights. They may be irregular but they are not illegal.**" [Read more...](#)

## SPOTLIGHT ON LEF IN PAKISTAN

The Labour Education Foundation (LEF) is a trade union-based organisation in Pakistan which is a member of SOLIDAR members IFWEA and currently in the process of joining the joint SOLIDAR-IFWEA project, the Global Network. Founded in 1993, their objective is to strengthen the trade union movement in Pakistan through the education of workers so that they can organise themselves more effectively. They also fight against the oppression of women, promote democratic values and norms, and extend legal aid to political, social and labour activists. [Read more...](#)

## SOLIDAR'S NEW ROMANIAN MEMBERS

In the previous edition of the Weekly Round Up, we failed to mention what fields our new Romanian members work in. Ado Sah Rom, which joined SOLIDAR at our Annual General Assembly on 2 July, work in social dialogue and social service provision. [Read more about them on their website.](#)

## JOB VACANCY: INTERN IN SOCIAL AFFAIRS

## SOLIDARIDAD INTERNACIONAL NEWSLETTER

4-6	European Civic Forum - mobility, dialogue, participation: towards an active European citizenship", La Rochelle, France
15	SOLIDAR Final Jobs Jobs/Decent Work Conference, Brussels
16	SOLIDAR Round Table: Impact of Chinese Investment, 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 <sup>nd</sup> Forum on Social Services of General Interest, Paris
30-2	Volonteurope 2008, Genoa, Italy

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**SOLIDAR is a European network of 47 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 [Abiqail](#)**

[www.solidar.org](http://www.solidar.org)