

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S THEMATIC REVIEW SEMINAR ON FLEXICURITY

This Wednesday, Conny Reuter, Secretary General of SOLIDAR, contributed to the European Commission's Thematic Review seminar on 'the development of national flexicurity policies in response to labour market challenges' in his capacity as President of the Social Platform. Following the adoption of the Common Principles of Flexicurity, a public initiative entitled the 'Mission for flexicurity' was launched by the Commission at the beginning of 2008 to help Member States integrate the Common Principles of Flexicurity into the national processes and promote the practical implementation of the principles in the different national contexts. This seminar aimed to discuss these issues.

Conny Reuter stated at the event that *"only a strong social policy will allow for flexicurity to work in practice"*. He continued by stressing that *"the key focus remains the implementation of an inclusive labour market, for which a strong link between flexicurity and active inclusion is necessary; and gender equality, which has just not been sufficiently acknowledged. It is also essential that a large consultation takes place on a national level, including social NGOs."*

On the same issue, SOLIDAR, together with Danish member FIC, are organising a seminar on Flexicurity on the 2 October, [see programme](#).

- [Read more about the background and seminar](#)
- [See the European Commission's Flexicurity timeline](#)
- [Read the Social Platform's contribution to the process](#)

AGREEMENT ON EUROPEAN PACT ON IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM

Justice and Home Affairs Ministers meeting in Brussels on 24-25 September reached agreement on the French EU Presidency's proposal for a European Pact on Immigration and Asylum. Aiming to lay foundations for a renewed political commitment between EU Member States on immigration and asylum, the Pact will now be formally endorsed by EU Heads of State at the European Council in October. [Read more...](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SOLIDAR AND LBAS TOGETHER FOR DECENT WORK

This week - Monday 23 September - SOLIDAR's President, Joseph Weidenholzer, opened the Call to Action* signature collection in Latvia together with the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (LBAS) President, Mr Pēteris Krūgers.

In his opening speech, Joseph Weidenholzer stressed that Decent Work for a Decent Life can only be achieved through cooperation between unions and different actors (politicians, business, associations and NGOs) but above all through 'inspired activism', stating that *"only action inspired by ideals can bring a change and for that reason we ask you all to mobilise to make Decent Work for all real"*. Pēteris Krūgers concluded the opening by observing that *"the fight for decent work starts at home"*. LBAS will mobilise its affiliates in Riga this 7 October, World Day for Decent Work, to ask the Latvian government to negotiate an agreement ensuring decent wages, especially for workers in the social sectors.

*SOLIDAR supports the Call to Action for Decent Work in the framework of the EU funded Jobs Jobs Jobs Project.

DECENT WORK DECENT LIFE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN LIBERIA

The Citizens United to Promote Peace & Democracy in Liberia (CUPPADL) launched their Decent Work Decent Life campaign on 14 September in Monrovia. The National Executive Director, Mr Prince Kreplah, hopes the campaign will help reduce the inequality and suffering of the people in Liberia. As part of the campaign, the CUPPADL is collecting signatures for the Call to Action for Decent Work, and so far 527 people have signed. The campaign, focusing mainly on young people and women, is expected to generate about 5000 signatures for the Call to Action for Decent Work and will include a big mobilisation on the World Day for Decent Work on October 7.

BURMESE MILITARY JUNTA SENTENCE LABOUR ACTIVIST

SOLIDAR supports the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in their [condemnation](#) of the Burmese military junta who recently sentenced U Thet Way, a Burmese labour activist, to two years of hard labour. U Thet Way was involved in helping to supply the International Labour Organisation with information on forced labour including the military junta's practise of recruitment of children into the army.

EDUCATION

The [Salon de l'education 2008](#) (Education Forum), taking place from 27-30 November 2008, will bring together teachers, people involved in education and students to debate and exchange best practice on educational practices and policies. Most importantly for SOLIDAR, education and life long learning will be discussed with a focus on the links between initial, continuous and informal education.

SILVER ROSE AWARDS 2008 & SOLIDAR'S 60th ANNIVERSARY

On 15 October, SOLIDAR is holding the Silver Rose Awards and SOLIDAR 60th Anniversary celebrations. This event will award the achievements of exceptional individuals and organisations who have contributed to the struggle for social justice and also celebrate SOLIDAR's 60th Anniversary. With the support of the Socialist Group in the Parliament and hosted by Harlem Désir MEP and Ieke van den Burg MEP, the event will take place in the European Parliament in Brussels.

The winners this year are Globetree, a Swedish NGO working to promote children's rights and a sustainable future for children, and the Syndicate of Workers of Teheran and Suburbs Bus Company (Syndica Sherkat-e Vahed), an Iranian Trade Union leading a courageous struggle for the respect of workers' rights and social justice.

If you would like to attend, please contact silverrose@solidar.org

MEMBERS' NEWS

SOLIDAR French Member, **Solidarité Laïque**, is looking for SOLIDAR member organisations who are interested in participating in a project on an information website for unaccompanied foreign minors. Read more in [English](#)[French](#)[Spanish](#)

Read SOLIDAR's Spanish member **Solidaridad internacional's** [newsletter](#)

Friends of Europe is co-organising a [conference on Saving Europe's Water](#)

2	FIC/SOLIDAR Seminar on flexicurity & labour market inclusion, Copenhagen
3	SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee, Copenhagen
7	World Day For Decent Work - Call to Action handover, Brussels and International
15	SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards 2008 and 60 Years Anniversary, Brussels
15-16	7th Round Table on the Fight against poverty and social exclusion, Marseille
17	Conference on promoting social terms in public procurement contracts, Paris
28-29	2nd Forum on Social Services of General Interest, Paris
30-2	Volonteurope 2008, Genoa, Italy
21-22	European Conference on Social Economy "Building Europe with Social Economy players, Strasbourg
24-25	European Forum on Demography, Brussels
27-30	Salon de l'Education, Paris
9-10	Social Platform Annual Conference "Civil Dialogue - How can we shape the Europe we want?", Brussels

