

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

EUROPEAN COMMISSION SIGNS CALL TO ACTION FOR DECENT WORK

This week the European Commission has made an historic commitment to the Decent Work Decent Life campaign with the President of the European Commission, Manuel Barroso and European Commissioner and Vice President, Margot Wallström, lending their support to the campaign which is gathering momentum worldwide. Conny Reuter, Secretary General of SOLIDAR explains that ***"Decent Work is a social justice agenda which is important for trade unions but also for progressive civil society organisations and should be at the core of European internal and external policies in order for all people to be able to live in dignity. We know today that sound social policies are fundamental tools to ensure social cohesion and hence to foster economic growth as well as citizens' trust in EU policies."***

On the World Day for Decent Work on the 7 October, Margot Wallström, signed the Call to Action for Decent Work at an action carried in front of the European Council in Brussels. The day after, 8 October, a Decent Work delegation met Mr Barroso in his offices where he signed the Call, which has so far been supported by thousands of individuals and organisations in over 50 countries.

Read SOLIDAR's media releases on [Wallström](#) | [Barroso](#) signing the Call.

Read more about SOLIDAR members' activities on the World Day for Decent Work in the Members' News section below.

[Watch Conny's speech on the World Day for Decent Work](#)

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

FIC AND SOLIDAR SEMINAR ON FLEXICURITY AND LABOUR MARKET INCLUSION

On 2 October, SOLIDAR, together with its Danish member FIC, organised a [seminar on flexicurity](#). The aim of this seminar was to discuss the issue of flexicurity and labour market reform, as well as making SOLIDAR better known in Denmark.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General of SOLIDAR, highlighted in his intervention that ***"flexicurity is being presented by many as an all encompassing model and a cure-all solution, also for disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups."*** But he stressed that ***"only with strong social policies, is flexibility possible, and not the other way around. Flexicurity is an interesting principle, but what is important is the final result. The key issue is how many people we bring back to the labour market with decent working and living conditions."*** [Read more...](#)

RECOMMENDATION ON ACTIVE INCLUSION ADOPTED

On 3 October the European Commission published a Recommendation on Active Inclusion. It is based around the three key elements of the active inclusion concept: adequate income support, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services. For all three strands the Recommendation sets out common principles and guidelines that should support Member States when designing or revising their policies, in particular oriented towards people excluded from the labour market and fighting poverty and societal exclusion. The common principles set out by the Commission represent a voluntary framework for Member States. They will be formally discussed by national governments at the Employment and Social Affairs Council in December 2008 where conclusions on follow-up actions will be drawn. [Read more...](#)

SOLIDAR POSITION ON COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS AND THE POSTING OF WORKERS IN THE INTERNAL MARKET

Following the adoption of the Report 'Challenges to collective agreements' by the EP's Employment

and Social Affairs Committee on 22 September, SOLIDAR has issued a position to members of the European Parliament, the European Commission, trade unions, social NGOs and some national ministries of Employment and Social Affairs. The position refers to and takes up challenges and risks SOLIDAR has identified in four recent rulings against the Commission by the European Court of Justice (Laval, Viking, Rüffert, Luxembourg) on the Posting of Workers Directive.

SOLIDAR strongly supports the analysis and requests in the Report prepared by EP rapporteur Jan Andersson. SOLIDAR calls for the re-establishment of a real balance between fundamental rights recognised in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and by Member States and the fundamental freedoms of the internal market. [Read more...](#)

IMMIGRATION AND CO-DEVELOPMENT FROM A CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION'S VIEWPOINT

David Lopez, from SOLIDAR member La Ligue de l'Enseignement, wrote an [article](#) on immigration and co-development from a civil society organisation's viewpoint [Co-développement, immigration . une approche européenne vue depuis la société civile]. He referred to SOLIDAR's project "Take Part!" and a working paper on co-development elaborated in the framework of this project. The article was published in the Soutien, solidarité et actions en faveur des émigrants (SSAE) magazine.

EDUCATION VOLUNTEUROPE

The 17th Workshop on Voluntary Action will be organised by Volunteurope in Genoa from 30 October-1 November 2008. A roundtable, 25 workshops and study visits to local volunteer projects will be organised. During the event the annual Active Citizens of Europe Awards will also be presented. SOLIDAR's British member CSV has hosted the Secretariat of Volunteurope since 1990.

The SOLIDAR Secretariat will be present. SOLIDAR members and other interested persons are invited to come to Genoa and participate in the event.

General information and programme | [Workshops and study visits](#) | [Contact](#) | [Visit Volunteurope's website](#)

SILVER ROSE AWARDS & SOLIDAR'S 60th ANNIVERSARY

Next Wednesday evening, 15 October, SOLIDAR is holding the Silver Rose Awards & SOLIDAR's 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

WORLD DAY FOR DECENT WORK ACTIONS: SOLIDAR MEMBERS' MOBILISATIONS

On 7 October several SOLIDAR members celebrated the World Day for Decent Work with a wide range of activities. Here are some examples of these mobilisations around Europe:

Belgium: FOS and Solidarité Socialiste were actively involved in the launch of a 2-year [campaign](#) which brings together Belgian Development NGOs and Trade Unions. 'Workers are not tools' is the

campaign's slogan.

Lithuania: Lithuanian Labour Research Service - together with the youth trade union centers - set up a 'decent work' trolley bus. Activists on the bus led a raising awareness action talking to the people waiting at bus stops about decent work and the importance of joining a union.

Switzerland: Swiss Labour Assistance led a [visual action](#) together with trade unions and the socialist party, asking public authorities to stop buying goods and furniture whose production conditions do not respect core labour standards (e.g. no forced labour, no child labour) and decent working conditions (e.g. fair working time).

Laborers' Voice also carried out [an action](#) for the World Day for Decent Work

ASB Germany released a [media statement](#) on the International Day for catastrophe prevention (in German)

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

La Ligue de l'Enseignement is [organising a concert](#) in support of their campaign 'No schools, no future'

15	SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards 2008 and 60th 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	Volonteuropa 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

SOLIDAR is a European network of 47 NGOs and labour movement organisations. SOLIDAR promotes equality, solidarity and social justice in the fields of social affairs, international cooperation and education. SOLIDAR's Weekly Round Up provides you with the latest information and news from SOLIDAR and our members.

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 Office](#)

