

## SILVER ROSE AWARDS 2008 & SOLIDAR's 60th ANNIVERSARY

On Wednesday evening, more than 450 friends of SOLIDAR gathered together in the European Parliament's Members' Restaurant to pay tribute to this year's winners of the SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards which recognise organisations' struggles for social justice, as well as to celebrate SOLIDAR's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Hosted by **Harlem Désir** MEP and **Ieke van den Burg** MEP, this year's ceremony was a great success welcoming speakers such as **Martin Schultz**, President of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament, **Poul Nyrup Rasmussen**, President of the Party of European Socialists, **Zita Gurmai**, MEP and President of PES Women, **Miguel Angel Martinez Martinez**, Vice President European Parliament, **Margot Wallström**, Vice President of the European Commission, **Guy Ryder**, General Secretary of the ITUC and **John Monks**, General Secretary of the ETUC.

Commenting on SOLIDAR's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen said in his speech, *"You [SOLIDAR] have made in your 60 years a real difference - another world is possible"*. Zita Gurmai also commented on SOLIDAR's birthday by saying that *"SOLIDAR has brought together organisations working on social justice with great success, thank you."*

The winner in the **international category** is the Iranian trade union, **Syndica Sherkat-e Vahed** (Syndicate of Workers of Teheran and Suburbs Bus Company). *"Receiving this prize gives the trade union hope and support and shows that the path the trade union has taken is the right one"*, commented Mr Yousef Molaie, the trade union's lawyer.

The winner in the **European category** is the Swedish NGO **Globetree** which protects children's rights. Kajsa Dahlstrom, President of the organisation commented that she felt like she was receiving the Nobel Prize and stated that *"The Silver Rose Award will inspire [our] vision and work"*.

[Read more about the winners](#)

This year's **Silver Rose Solidarity Fund** commemorated a dear friend of SOLIDAR, Janek Kuczkiewicz, who worked at the International Trade Union Confederation. The Solidarity Fund chosen was one which Janek greatly supported: Action Birmanie, a Belgian association composed of volunteers struggling for the restoration of democratic rights to the Burmese population oppressed by dictatorship. [www.birmanie.net](http://www.birmanie.net)

## History of a Movement

To honour the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of SOLIDAR, which was celebrated at the Silver Rose Awards Ceremony, a Book of History entitled "History of a Movement" has been published. This book outlines the history of SOLIDAR and its predecessor International Workers' Aid which can be traced back much further than just 60 years. If you would like a copy of this book, please [send an email](#).

## DISAPPOINTING EU SUMMIT

This week on 15 and 16 October the European Heads of State came together under the French Presidency for the Council meeting. Ahead of the meeting, SOLIDAR and Social NGOs put forward three proposals to be decided by the Council in order to prevent wider social crisis:

1. Tighten financial regulations
2. Guarantee that public money is used properly
3. Sign a social progress declaration

In the end, it seems that the results of the Council are disappointing as no clear engagement, in this sense, has been taken. The [final declaration](#) remains more a declaration of intention rather than a clear commitment. The most concrete measures remain the decisions of setting up a so-called financial crisis cell and a high-level group by the Commission to "strengthen the supervision of the European financial sector". There may also be some more flexibility in the application of the stability pact, a step which has always been refused in the past.

Concerning energy security, it is dealt with only under the supply and markets aspect and not in view of their social dimension of affordability and access. The European Pact on Immigration and Asylum has been endorsed. The statement "common policy must be founded on a proper management of migratory flows" not the policy social NGOs expect which insist on the social dimension of migration and the need for a fair global trade allowing economic development of countries of origin.

Based on the report of Irish Prime Minister Cowen, heads of government agreed to take up the discussion on the future of the Lisbon Treaty, that the Irish government will continue consultations on to find a way to resolve the deadlock, and to take up the discussion on the future of the Lisbon Treaty at their next meeting in early December.

## **SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

### **SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT: STUDY WITH PRACTICAL CASES AND COMMISSION GUIDE**

Recently a study on incorporating social criteria in public procurement commissioned by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and realised by the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has been published. It comprises a review of the legal and policy frameworks in selected EU Member States and six case studies on practices. These examples cover subjects such as decent work (UK), accessibility for all in railway transport (Spain), gender equality and gender mainstreaming (Austria), employment opportunities and training supporting social inclusion (France), health and safety at the workplace (Italy). This is a relevant issue for SOLIDAR members as social considerations in public procurement affect their double role as providers of (personal social) services and advocacy organisations.

[Read more...](#)

### **PSE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC SERVICES**

On 15 and 16 October the Socialist Group in the European Parliament organised a high-level conference on how best to promote social Europe in the internal market. About 150 representatives of national parliaments, trade unions, local and regional authorities and NGOs exchanged around two broad topics: What is the impact of the service directive on our economies and societies? What policy and legal framework conditions are needed to provide high quality services of general interest at local and regional level, and which are the challenges public authorities, providers and users currently face? [Read more...](#)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **FIRST EPA SIGNED WITH CARIBBEAN AMIDST CONTROVERSY**

Yesterday, 15 October, 10 months after the conclusion of the negotiations, the Caribbean states signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the EU in Barbados. For ten months this EPA has been the cause and subject of great controversy in the Caribbean media and parliaments. Guyana, which had recently expressed grave concerns about the impact of the EPA had finally agreed to sign following the European Commission's threat that their exports to the EU would face a hike in import taxes if they did not do so. The deal imposes an enormous list of obligations on Caribbean states including steep and sudden reductions in tariffs, as well as providing free access for European investors especially to minerals, oil, gas, land and woods and for European services especially banks, insurances, computer services, couriers, transport companies, telecommunication, hotels and tourist operators. [Read more...](#)

### **DONT' FORGET THE OTHER CRISIS - WORLD HUNGER - URGE DEVELOPMENT NGOs**

This week, CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation For Relief and Development of which SOLIDAR is a member, released a media release on the occasion of World Food Day. The media release highlights the importance of recognising that 1 billion people are facing hunger whilst the attention of European decision-makers is concentrated on the turmoil in the financial markets.

[Read the media release](#)

### **STAND UP AGAINST POVERTY AND MOBILISE!**

Beginning today (the World Day Against Poverty) and until Sunday 19 October, more than 67 million people are expected to mobilise around the world to demand that world leaders do not use the financial crisis as an excuse for breaking the promise to fight poverty and achieve the basic development benchmarks which are in the Millennium Development Goals.

The United Nations Millennium Campaign and Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) recall that today 1.4 billion people live on less than \$1.25 per day; the world spends \$1.2 trillion on weapons annually but cannot find the \$18 billion necessary to help meet existing overseas development assistance commitments; for every \$1 in aid that a developing country receives, over \$25 is spent on debt repayment.

To know how to join the events planned in the next days, visit [1](#) | [2](#) | [Website for school materials and songs to use](#)

### **SOLIDAR CONSORTIUM IN SRI LANKA [newsletter](#)**

## **EDUCATION**

### **SALON DE L'EDUCATION**

French SOLIDAR member La Ligue de l'Enseignement will organise a European education fair (Salon Européen de l'Education) from 27 to 30 November 2008 in Paris, the biggest fair devoted to educational professionals. During these four days, around 500,000 visitors will be present, including an important number

of partners from different European countries, and from other parts of the world.

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

[Programme](#) | [Contact](#)

### MEMBERS' NEWS

**Solidarité Socialiste** is organising a [conference](#) on 'Agrocarburants: Risques et opportunités pour les organisations paysannes'

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

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 Officer](#)