

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

CHALLENGES TO COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS IN THE EU REPORT ADOPTED

This week, the European Parliament adopted Jan Andersson's report on 'the Challenges to collective agreements in the EU' by 474 votes for, 106 against and 93 abstentions. With this resolution, the Parliament has reacted to the recent Laval, Viking, Rüffert and Luxembourg rulings of the European Court of Justice by taking the position that the freedom to provide services is one of the cornerstones of the European project but that this should be balanced against fundamental rights and the social objectives anchored in the treaties.

Read the [European Parliament resolution of 22 October 2008 on challenges to collective agreements in the EU \(2008/2085\(INI\)\)](#) | [SOLIDAR's Position on Collective Agreements and the Posting of Workers in the Internal Market](#)

ACTIVE INCLUSION AT THE HEART OF 7th EUROPEAN ROUND TABLE ON POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

One out of six European citizens live below the poverty risk threshold. In other words, about 80 million Europeans are currently experiencing a lack of financial means. Depending on individual life situations and social realities, European citizens face various forms of exclusion from society, from access to services of general interest to open or hidden discrimination. With the current and seemingly deepening financial market crisis having its first backwash effects on the real economy, this number is most likely only going to rise in the near future across the whole of the EU.

More than 200 representatives from the European Commission, national governments, regional and local authorities, NGOs, people experiencing poverty, trade unions and employers' organisations participated in the **7th European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion** held on 15-16 October 2008 in Marseille. SOLIDAR was represented by its Dutch member Humanitas which brought in expertise on the involvement of volunteers around professional services for over-indebted persons. [Read more...](#)

EUROPEAN PACT ON IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM - ADOPTION COMPLETED!

October's European Council saw the full endorsement and adoption of the [European Pact on Immigration and Asylum](#). The [European Council](#) adopted the Pact, by stating that it *"expresses the commitment of the EU and its Member States to conduct a fair, effective and consistent policy for dealing with the challenges and opportunities which migration represents"*. The final version of the Pact continued with its insistence that the best way to 'control illegal migration' is to ensure effective 'returns of illegal migrants'. And in encouraging synergy between migration and development, the Pact concludes that EU-level agreements with countries of origin and transit contain clauses on readmission. As SOLIDAR has stated in a recent contribution to a Social Platform letter on the Pact, discussions regarding development should never be held hostage to a third country's ability to 'manage' or 'control' migration flows. [Read about the 2nd Euro-African non-governmental conference...](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

BALKAN NETWORK MEETING - 11 NOVEMBER

The SOLIDAR Balkan Network is meeting for a seminar with local staff in Belgrade on 11 November 2008. At this meeting SOLIDAR and its members will discuss potential initiatives for enhanced cooperation in the field. An element on the agenda is also the European Commission's Enlargement Policy and processes within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) regarding South East Europe. For more information contact [Maurice](#).

SILVER ROSE AWARDS 2008 & SOLIDAR's 60th ANNIVERSARY

See the [photos](#) and [videos](#) of the Silver Rose Awards & SOLIDAR's 60th Anniversary.

View the [media coverage of the event](#) (bottom of page).

MEMBERS' NEWS

Read SOLIDAR Italian member COCIS' [article](#) on some measures that we should remember in this period of the financial crisis

SOLIDAR's Maltese members SOS Malta has launched a [project](#): Water For Life

Friends of Europe conference on [Long live Europe! Shaping our healthcare revolution](#) 8 December 2008 in Brussels

Read the [press release](#) of the 2008 WIDE Annual Conference entitled: Feminist Visions for a Just Europe

held in The Hague, The Netherlands.

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| 28-29 | 2nd Forum on Social Services of General Interest, Paris |
| 30-2 | Volonteurope 2008, Genoa, Italy |
| 7 | SOLIDAR Communications meeting, Brussels |
| 11 | SOLIDAR Balkan Network meeting, Belgrade |
| 12 | SOLIDAR International Cooperation Committee, Belgrade |
| 13 | SOLIDAR Field Trip, Belgrade |
| 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](#)