

'FROM FINANCIAL CRISIS TO RECOVERY: A EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION'

It is under this heading that the European Commission published a Communication on Wednesday detailing their plan of action to help member states combat the global financial crisis. Expectations are high to see the European Commission and the European institutions proposing a set of serious and comprehensive measures which will have an impact not only on the financial markets and contribute to stabilising the markets for goods and services around the globe, but also on the daily lives of the people living in the European Union.

We see that the Communication only refers to employment and active labour market policies whereas social NGOs have, for a long time now, called for policies actively promoting social inclusion and a Lisbon Strategy based on sustainable social and environmental growth and job creation. *"This is why we call for civil society - including social NGOs - to be more involved in the design of strategies and policies because, in the end, it is they who have to "deal" with the "collateral damages". And this is also why we call for a new model with a strengthened social dimension of Europe, and a move towards sustainable economic and societal development!"* said Conny Reuter, Secretary General of SOLIDAR.

[Read more on SOLIDAR's reaction to the Communication.](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

WORLD VIEWS ON EUROPE

SOLIDAR this week attended two events in Paris, jointly organised by CONCORD and Coordination Sud, the French development NGO platform under the French Presidency. The first event, entitled 'Forum NGOs - International Partners' brought together national platforms from almost 100 countries face-to-face with international NGOs and networks working on development. The forum participants exchanged ideas on the ways and means in which these two types of civil society organisations interact and how their joint work can be strengthened at all levels.

The next day's event, open to the public and involving some 800 participants sought to engage a range of actors in a debate about "World Views on Europe". The participants discussed issues of human rights, what role for Europe in the struggle for a fair globalisation, how can the private sector be engaged in promoting sustainable development and what should be Europe's role in building a peaceful world. On behalf of CONCORD, SOLIDAR was asked to present to the French Secretary of State in charge of cooperation, Alain Joyandet, a set of messages written by the participants from 100 countries on how Europe can play a role in promoting a fair and responsible world. [Read the text of the messages.](#) [Read the text of the SOLIDAR presentation.](#)

SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL FOR A "GLOBAL SUMMIT" TO REFORM THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM

SOLIDAR has signed the petition in support of a fundamental and far-reaching transformation of the international financial and economic system. The declaration calls for a major international conference convened by the UN to review the international financial and monetary architecture, its institutions and its governance, on certain conditions.

[Read more and support the campaign](#)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ENSURES TEMPORARY WORKERS GAIN EQUAL RIGHTS!

On 22 October, at its plenary session, the European Parliament adopted a Directive on Temporary Agency Work which enables temporary workers to be treated equally, from day one, with permanent staff in the same company. However, in the UK, agency workers will only get the same pay and conditions as permanent staff after having been employed for a period of 12 weeks (this was the condition to adopt the Directive which has been blocked in the European Council since 2002).

The adoption of the Directive goes in the direction suggested by Harlem Désir MEP, reporter on the issue and the Employment and Social Affairs Committee that recommended, earlier this month, the approval of the Council's Common Position on Temporary Work, without any amendments.

[Temporary Workers, text adopted by European Parliament, 22/10/2009](#)

WOMEN FARM WORKERS RIGHTS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

This week SOLIDAR hosted a Round Table with two South African organisations working on women farm workers' rights in the Western Cape. The organisations were touring Belgium with SOLIDAR's Belgian member FOS, following the Belgian national-level Decent Work Decent Life campaign. SOLIDAR carried out an interview with the two representatives who highlighted the current situation of women farm workers' in the Western Cape as well as how European organisations can help their cause. [Read the interview.](#)

NEW SOCIAL BALKANS

This week SOLIDAR responded to a European Commission consultation on the European Enlargement Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) programme, focused on Multi-beneficiary actions. The consultation's underlying question was: "*what is your vision on promoting cooperation between the countries of the Western Balkans?*" In SOLIDAR's view, poverty and social exclusion are cross-border problems that require a regional approach, adding value to ongoing national initiatives. For that reason, SOLIDAR responded to the Commission by saying: "*We would only like to underline that promoting regional cooperation in the fields of employment policies, social dialogue, social cohesion, social inclusion, social protection, labour law and health and safety at work could be strengthened*". [Read the full contribution here.](#)

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

SOLIDAR AT 2nd FORUM ON SOCIAL SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, the 2nd Forum on Social Services of General Interest (SSGI) was held in Paris, jointly organised by the French EU Council Presidency and DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. In their introductory speeches both the French High Commissioner for Active Solidarity Against Poverty, Martin Hirsch, and Commissioner Vladimír Spidla, expressed their support for making this Forum a permanent event on an annual basis.

SOLIDAR underlined that it is crucial - when shaping policies around the sector of SSGIs - to acknowledge the fact that these policies are instrumental in guaranteeing fundamental rights of European citizens and in safeguarding the realisation of general interest objectives. The starting point should be the recognition of the core condition of social services in social protection systems, their strong position embedded in local communities and the specific needs and demands of their users, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Social services are about creating conditions to favour decent working and living conditions, the empowerment of users and lives lived in dignity.

[Read SOLIDAR's contribution to this edition as well as last year's first edition in Lisbon...](#)

[Programme of 2nd Forum on SSGI, 28 - 29 October 2008](#) | [Read the conclusions from the 1st Forum on SSGI, 17 September 2007](#) | [Biennial report on SSGI in the EU](#) | [Study on the Situation of SSGI in the EU](#)

EDUCATION

SOLIDAR EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

A SOLIDAR Education Committee meeting will take place on **Thursday 27 November** from 10.30 to 12.30. The meeting will take place at the Salon de l'Education in Paris. As you may well know, the European Commission has launched a [consultation](#) on "Migration & mobility: challenges and opportunities for EU education systems". The deadline is 31 December 2008. [Read the draft agenda](#)

EUCIS-LLL PUBLIC HEARING

EUCIS-LLL will organise a public hearing on 18 December 2008 from 9.30-18.00 in Brussels (EESC building - 74 rue de Trèves). For more information or to register, please contact [Audrey](#).

SILVER ROSE AWARDS 2008 & SOLIDAR's 60th ANNIVERSARY

Watch 2008 winners of the Silver Rose Awards in the European category, [Globetree's video interview](#) on the Party of European Socialists website.

MEMBERS' NEWS

SOLIDAR French member **La Ligue de l'Enseignement** has issued a [media release](#) on the reduction of funding from the Ministry of Education to complementary education associations in France. The activities provided by these associations (youth training, educational school trips, sporting activities,..) are important learning processes which are necessary for all of us.

SOLIDAR's Belgian member **Pour la Solidarité** is holding a conference on Restructuring and employment: Defining, discussing and promoting responsible approaches to change in Europe on 18 November 2008 in Brussels.

The Autumn edition of the [Europe's World magazine](#) is out.

Eldis - one of a family of knowledge services at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK - [Gender Reporter](#) is out with media advocacy training toolkit plus new approach for safer food.

6	SOLIDAR Communications meeting, Brussels
11	SOLIDAR Balkan Network meeting, Belgrade
12	SOLIDAR International Cooperation Committee, Belgrade
13	SOLIDAR Field Trip, Belgrade
17-19	Global Network Regional meeting, Lima
19-20	APEC Ministerial conference, Lima
21-22	European Conference on Social Economy "Building Europe with Social Economy players, Strasbourg
24-25	European Forum on Demography, Brussels
25-26	Civil Society Organisation Conference on Financing for Development, Doha
26-27	CONCORD General Assembly, Brussels
27-30	Salon de l'Education, Paris
27-2	Financing for Development conference, Doha
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](#)