

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SOLIDAR ACTION PLAN FOR WORK IN PALESTINE/ISRAEL

Following the meeting of our International Cooperation Committee on 14 January 2009, members of SOLIDAR present elaborated the following elements underpinning our immediate and long term work in Palestine/Israel. This reference frame provides an orientation for the involvement of our members and guides the intervention of the SOLIDAR Secretariat.

It takes into account the need for urgent action in favour of a ceasefire, the intensification of international and European pressure on Israel for achieving it, as well as preparing for the post-conflict work which will not only need to respond to the humanitarian emergency, but also support those forces on both sides who engage in dialogue for peace and reconciliation. [Read action plan.](#) | [See SOLIDAR members and partners statements](#) | [Read Simone Süsskind's letter in Le Soir](#)

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

SOLIDAR CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIALLY-RESPONSIBLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT GUIDE

This week SOLIDAR contributed to a consultation on the European Commission's Guide on socially-responsible public procurement (SRPP). SOLIDAR stresses that it is essential that a Guide like this exists, which will expand on the legal framework at European level and practical procedural issues for including social and ethical considerations in public procurement practices. As this will facilitate the implementation of policies supportive to the realisation of social and sustainable policies according to the shared values of the EU - including dignity, solidarity, justice, equal opportunities - and of the individual and collective rights as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

In the contribution SOLIDAR suggests points that it would like to see in the future Guide and backs up its suggestions with examples given by SOLIDAR member, Swiss Labour Assistance, from running a campaign on public procurement practices in Switzerland.

[Read SOLIDAR contribution](#) | [WR article](#) on EC meeting | Read [Study on the incorporation of Social Considerations in Public Procurement in the EU](#) (proposed elements by EC for taking into account in Guide)

CZECH EU COUNCIL PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES IN SOCIAL POLICY

After the prolific French Presidency, the Czech Prime Minister Topolánek presented on 6 January 2009 the priorities and the work programme of their EU Council Presidency. The key priorities of their Presidency are the three 'E's': Economy, Energy and Europe in the world, with the motto 'Europe without barriers'. Their priorities have however been criticised as not bringing anything new to the debate.

Fighting the economic crisis will be priority number one. The Czech strategy aims to remove all remaining barriers to the full application of all internal market freedoms. In this vein, the Czech Presidency aims to boost cross-border service provision by fully transposing the Directive on services in the internal market. In order to improve the EU's competitiveness, the Czech Presidency will emphasise the benefits of the full liberalisation of the movements of workers and aims to increase employment and labour market flexibility through the implementation of the common [flexicurity principles](#). Regarding social services, the Presidency will focus on their role as a tool for preventing social exclusion and for active inclusion in the labour market and society, as well as an area of growing employment opportunities.

[Read Conny Reuter's quote in The Parliament Mag](#) | [Czech EU Presidency Website](#)

THE ROLE OF SOCIAL ECONOMY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE

The requests to European policy makers resulting from the [European Conference on the Social Economy](#) that SOLIDAR contributed to, were published last week. In the document, European and national federations underlined that since the [social economy](#)* contributes to the achievement of the

EU's social and economic objectives - based on concerns for social justice and economic democracy - it must also be able to benefit from the appropriate political, legislative and operational conditions.

[Read more...](#)

EDUCATION

SECOND STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM

The Second Stakeholders' Forum, organised by the DG EAC in partnership with EUCIS-LLL, will take place on Monday 9 February.

The objective of this day is twofold. During the morning session, stakeholders will be invited to input on the short term (2009-2010) and long term priorities (2010-2020) for EU cooperation in education and training as presented by the European Commission in its updated strategic framework. The afternoon session will be focused on the 2009 Year on innovation and Creativity. For more info:

afrih@laligue.org

MEMBERS

Read about the latest funding update, Call for proposals for members working in Western Africa,... in the Members Area. Don't have a password? Contact [Abigail](#)

SOLIDAR heartily welcomes Aurore Leconte, who has joined the Secretariat team as our new Administration Assistant. Aurore can be reached at the following email: aurore.leconte@solidar.org

Read Solidaridad internacional's [newsletter](#)

Read Jeunesse au plein air press releases on [complementary education associations](#) and their [2009 solidarity campaign](#) which raises money so that children can go on holidays.

Read about Pour la Solidarité's [activities coming up in 2009](#).

PARTNERS

Read the [results of a round table](#) organised by SOLIDAR's Egyptian partner in the Global Network, The Center for Trade Union and Workers Services (CTUWS), to develop its draft law on trade union and labour rights.

EAPN looking for [Coordinator for the EU Year 2010](#)

20	EPALDE Group Hearing: Own-Initiative Report on Social Economy, Brussels
21	EP Intergroup Social Economy meeting
22-24	EPSCO meeting, Luhacovice, Czech Rep
29-30	Conference: Preparing for EU Leadership on Sustainability, Brussels
27-1 Feb	World Social Forum, Belem, Brazil
5	SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee, Brussels
5-6	Conference on Employment Policy, Prague
18	8th Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion (DG Empl & Swedish Presidency), Brussels
19	EUCIS-LLL Annual General Assembly, Brussels
2	G20 meeting, London
2-3	Global Progressive Forum event, Brussels
14	Civil Society Day, Brussels

SOLIDAR is a European network of 50 NGOs and labour movement organisations. Working in

cooperation with progressive civil society and trade unions, 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 the SOLIDAR Network. 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](#)

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