

SOLIDAR AT THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

The SOLIDAR delegation led by Josef Weidenholzer, President, is present at the World Social Forum (WSF) which was opened on Wednesday by a march of several tens of thousands of participants calling for more global justice and the eradication of poverty. In terms of participation, the WSF is a huge success with more than 100,000 people participating from all continents, with a high presence of young people who want to see a fairer globalisation based on sustainable social and environmental development.

In the first two workshops of our programme at the WSF, SOLIDAR brought together our partners and allies to discuss two hot issues of the day: the economic crisis and the reform of the global economic system, and China's impact on Africa and Latin America. [Read more...](#)

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

CZECH PRESIDENCY: WHAT ARE THE SOCIAL PRIORITIES?

Based on a first assessment by SOLIDAR of the Czech Presidency's priorities and work programme for employment, social affairs and health, it appears that there is a lack of firm commitment to strengthen the social dimension of the EU. The social policy priorities set out, which are reflected in the upcoming conferences (see agenda below), are in three main areas: flexicurity and labour market reform, cross-border healthcare, patient rights and patient mobility in the internal market, and social services. [Read more...](#)

CAMPAIGN FOR A MORE SOCIAL AND SUSTAINABLE EU LEADERSHIP

SOLIDAR is participating in the launch [event](#) of a 2009 campaign, Spring Alliance, organised by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and Social Platform taking place on 29-30 January. This campaign will focus on influencing the policy priorities of the new European Commission and, even further, for the EU over the next decade, especially aiming at making social and sustainable development the ultimate goal of the new Social Agenda and the post-Lisbon Strategy.

As stated by John Hontelez, Secretary General of EEB and co-moderator of the first session, the ultimate goal of the alliance should be to make policy-makers aware that social fairness and equity are not a matter of political choice, but are imperative to future policy-making. SOLIDAR members can get involved in this campaign by participating in follow-up Working Groups. For [more info on WGs](#), [background document](#) & [campaign paper](#).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

HUNGER STRIKE FOR ZIMBABWE

Africa's Heads of State will meet this Sunday in Addis Ababa where they will be greeted by a crowd of hunger strikers, calling for justice and democracy in Zimbabwe. Kumi Naidoo, a South African activist who will address the African Union summit about Zimbabwe's crisis, is urging activists worldwide to join in with his hunger strike this Sunday ([see video](#)).

As the political stalemate between Mugabe and Tsvangirai's parties continues, Zimbabwe is lurching towards economic collapse, with cholera, hyperinflation, hunger, and Mugabe's brutality only getting worse. SOLIDAR urges African leaders to lend their support to Morgan Tsvangirai, SOLIDAR Silver Rose award winner in 2001, and stands in solidarity with the freely-elected party of Zimbabwe, the Movement for Democratic Change.

WESTERN BALKANS: PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DECENT WORK

Last week SOLIDAR provided feedback to DG Enlargement on the 'Civil Society Facility - Partnerships Program'. SOLIDAR's contribution focused on two elements: 1) that Decent Work should become the basis for promoting cooperation between social-economic partners around themes such as social rights, social protection and gender equality, and 2) that special attention is needed for partnerships between civil society organisations that promote the social inclusion of vulnerable groups. [Read more...](#)

EDUCATION

LIFELONG LEARNING: HOW TO INTEGRATE MIGRANTS

The EUCIS-LLL public hearing on «Access, equity and diversity in lifelong learning: how to successfully integrate populations of migration background in Europe?» took place on 18 December 2008 in Brussels. [Read the minutes of this hearing](#) and [SOLIDAR's presentation on "Migration and Mobility: Challenges and Opportunities for EU Education Systems"](#).

MEMBERS NEWS

SOLIDAR Austrian member, **Volkshilfe**, issues a [Press Release](#) on SOLIDAR's President at the WSF

SOLIDAR member, **The Czech Council on Foreign Relations**, has launched a series of art exhibitions on the topic of "Europe without barriers" ([see photos](#)) which is the motto of the Czech Presidency of the EU. The project aims to increase awareness about the European issues using modern art as communication medium. The exhibition is a collection of contributions to a young artists' competition organised in 2008. The exhibition therefore reflects the young generation's perspective of barriers, both political and socio-economical, within the EU and between the EU and rest of the world. It was presented for the first time in Prague in January 2009.

Read **Solidarité Socialiste's** [newsletter](#)

Read **ARCI's** [newsletter](#)

Find out the [upcoming events](#) for **Pour la solidarité**

PARTNERS NEWS

Read the **ITUC's** [WSF press release](#)

ETUI Monthly Forum on 26 February from 11:30-13:30 on "Green Jobs". Contact tmacdonald@etui-rehs.org

27-1 Feb	World Social Forum, Belem, Brazil
5	SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee, Brussels
5-6	Conference on Employment Policy, Prague
18	Prep meeting - 8th Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion (DG Empl & Swedish Presidency), Brussels
12-13	Conference "Quality and Safety Policy for Patients", Prague
16-18	Conference: Social Rights, Active Citizenship and Governance in the EU, Brussels
19	EUCIS-LLL Annual General Assembly, Brussels
25-26	Conference: Flexicurity - Lifelong Learning and Social Protection Components, Prague
2	G20 meeting, London
2-3	Global Progressive Forum event, Brussels
14	Civil Society Day, Brussels
16-18	Conference: Social Economy, Prague
22-23	Conference: Social Services - a tool to Mobilise Workforce and Reinforce Social Cohesion, Prague

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](#)