

What a contrast could be seen this week: at the World Social Forum in Belem, where I was, 120,000 people from all continents were proclaiming that another world is not only possible but necessary; whereas at European level and in the Northern hemisphere, debates on how to solve national issues were omnipresent. This revival of protectionism in countries inside and outside of Europe, concerning national labour markets for example, is a dangerous reaction, one which is unacceptable for progressive forces! There is, of course, a need to protect and create jobs and employment, but not by discriminating against people coming from other EU or third countries. [Read more..](#)

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### EP's ACTIVE INCLUSION REPORT TAKES UP SOCIAL NGOs MAIN CONCERNS

On 27 January the EP's rapporteur on Active Inclusion presented an own-initiative report commenting on the Commission's active inclusion strategy and the implementation of the EC's Recommendation's on [Active Inclusion](#)\*. SOLIDAR's views, as well as those of a number of Social Platform members, were contributed to this draft report and we are happy to report that it takes up all the major requests presented by social NGOs. [Read more...](#)

### EMPLOYERS' SANCTIONS DIRECTIVE: MIGRANT WORKERS, NOT EMPLOYERS, WILL PAY THE PRICE OF THEIR EXPLOITATION

On the 4 February, the European Parliament voted in favour of a report by Claudio Fava MEP (PES) on EU legislation aiming to introduce sanctions for employers of irregular third country nationals. SOLIDAR along with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), European Women's Lobby (EWL) and Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) issued a joint statement.

The statement put forward that although we have been encouraged to see the high priority given by the European Parliament to addressing the exploitation of migrant workers, we are also disappointed that a compromise has been reached by the EU Council and MEPs that retains the focus on the status of the migrant, rather than the exploitation by the employer. While welcoming key protective provisions, we are concerned that this directive does not recognise that undocumented workers have labour rights and that the priority must be ensuring such rights are enforced.

Read the joint statement in [EN](#) | [FR](#)

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### WESTERN BALKANS: 18 CIVIL SOCIETY RECOMMENDATIONS

At a seminar organised by Olof Palme International Center and SOLIDAR on 15-17 December in Kolacina, Montenegro, 50 civil society organisations (CSOs) drafted [18 Recommendations for the European Commission](#) (EC) in order to strengthen their role in the European Enlargement process.

The CSOs consider that a legally recognised status of Civil Society Organisations in the Western Balkans and a culture change amongst decision makers towards a more 'open understanding' of the social economic value of CSOs, is a precondition. Furthermore, it was suggested that the EC could support the set up of 'social observatories' by CSOs and trade unions that fulfil a "watchdog" role for decent work, social inclusion, social cohesion, social services, social protection and poverty eradication.

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTES ON EPAs

The European Parliament adopted today (5 February) a controversial report on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), drafted by Jürgen Schröder (EPP-ED, DE), which states that whether countries in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific group sign Economic Partnership Agreements with the EU or not, they should not be worse off than under the current system of preferences. [Read more...](#)

## EDUCATION

## STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM ON EDUCATION ON 9 FEBRUARY

The Forum, taking place on Monday 9 February, is a key moment for stakeholders to discuss together and to try to find common messages for the European Commission and Member States. As well as a very good opportunity to meet and to dialogue with the different actors working on education and training, across the sectors.

[Programme and more information](#)

### MEMBERS

Read the latest funding update and SOLIDAR's latest contributions... in the **Members Area**. Don't have a password? Contact [Abigail](#)

Read more about SOLIDAR's Czech member in a **SPOTLIGHT ON...Rada pro mezinárodní vztahy (Czech Council for Foreign Affairs)**

Read about **Lodewijk De Waal**, SOLIDAR Board treasurer from Humanitas in an [article](#) in Libération

View **Conny**'s [interview](#) as 'Citoyen d'honneur' on French Parliamentary TV

**Legacoopbund** [expresses solidarity](#) with a volunteer who had received threats whilst working in a field which had been confiscated from the mafia in the South of Italy

**Pour la Solidarité** is hosting a lunchtime session on « Une alimentation durable: Enjeux et perspectives » on Thursday 19 February from 12.00-14.00. [More info](#)

### PARTNERS

**ILGA Europe** is looking for a [Policy and Programmes Officer](#).

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](#)

[www.solidar.org](http://www.solidar.org)