

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

INVITATION - TOGETHER FOR SOCIAL EUROPE CONFERENCE

SOLIDAR, in partnership with the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), and with the kind support of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament, is organising a conference 'Together for Social Europe' in the European Parliament on 29 April 2009, hosted by Jan Cremers MEP (PvdA, Netherlands).

In the run-up to the European Elections 2009, this event will bring social workers from SOLIDAR member organisations to the European Parliament to present their direct testimonies of the social realities on the ground with Members of the European Parliament. The Conference will conclude with the presentation of a SOLIDAR declaration 'Together for Social Europe'.

Please visit our [webpage](#) for the conference invitation, draft programme and registration form.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

TAKE ACTION FOR THE G20

In the lead up to the G20 Summit in London next week, many civil society organisations, social movements and trade unions are engaging in a range of activities to put pressure on the governments meeting there to ensure that the current financial and economic crisis serves as a real turning point that shifts the paradigm of the last twenty years of global economic management from greed and self-interest to the creation of just and equal societies, decent work and sustainable development. For example, the [ITUC](#) has released a 5-point plan to combat the crisis.

Tomorrow in London, a broad alliance of actors will mobilise thousands of citizens to call on the G20 to [Put People First](#), an effort that most of SOLIDAR UK members are engaged in. For those of us who cannot be on the march, the Avaaz team has launched a global petition ([EN](#) | [FR](#)) for the G20 to "agree upon a global rescue package that puts people first - to stimulate, regulate and fundamentally reform the global economy and to invest in a sustainable green recovery", which we invite all SOLIDAR members to sign up to.

BAROSSO TALKS TO TOP REPRESENTATIVES OF EU DEVELOPMENT NGOs

A CONCORD High Level Leadership Forum was held yesterday, with participation of over 80 CEOs from European development NGOs and the attendance of the President of the European Commission, Mr. Manuel Barosso.

In his address Mr. Barosso drew attention to some of the key issues preoccupying the minds of European NGOs, in particular the impact of the financial and economic crisis on the developing world, and the impact of climate change vis-a-vis the EU's commitment to leading the world towards an ambitious deal at the Copenhagen summit at the end of the year. In reference to next week's G20 meeting, he outlined the role that the G20 should play as being four-fold: coordinating the global response to the financial crisis; preserving an open economy; pressuring for the finalisation of the WTO Doha round and making the global financial institutions more responsive and accountable. [Read more.](#)

CSOs DEMAND SOCIAL PROTECTION AS A PRIORITY IN DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The European Commission's DG Development organised a 2-day technical workshop on health systems and social protection in health in developing countries in Brussels. The workshop is intended to feed into the drafting of a European Commission Communication in the area of financing of health systems, to be submitted to the Council by the end of 2009.

At that event, the [European Working Group on Social Protection and Decent Work in Development Cooperation](#) presented a [joint statement](#) recommending, among others, that: 1) The European Commission prepares a general communication on social protection in EU development cooperation. The focus of the communication should be on social protection based on the ILO's 'Global Social Floor'. 2) The EU recognises that social protection is a cost-effective investment which is essential to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. 3) The EU prioritises social protection in its development policy and makes it a central part of its response to the global economic crisis, as it is a critical means of tackling chronic poverty but also as an investment in human capital which catalyses economic growth, social inclusion and empowerment.

EDUCATION

EUCIS-LLL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The EUCIS General Assembly was held on 19 March 2009 in Brussels. The members adopted their reports and discussed their action plan for 2009. Four new networks became members of the platform: the FEECA,

EPA, ESHA and EUROCLIO. The platform now gathers together 19 members representing various actors or sectors of lifelong learning. Jean-Marc Roirant, EUCIS President on behalf of SOLIDAR, also stepped down from his role, handing the Presidency over to Gina Ebner from EAEA.

The year 2008 was a strategic year for the platform notably in terms of new partnerships. It was also a year of reflection on its place and role as a platform and notably on its added value for the members. The new intranet was also officially launched and this should ease the sharing of information between the members in the future.

EUCIS STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

EUCIS also organised a stakeholders' meeting on the morning of 19 March, in order to invite other organisations to share their views on the development of a platform. Participants outlined the need to give more coherence to the networks' initiatives to have a better impact on the global orientation of EU cooperation in education and training. They also expressed the need to foster the implementation of an effective consultation of stakeholders at national and European level. Finally, they outlined the need to inform and involve the national members in this process and to work more closely with the Council and the European Parliament.

MEMBERS NEWS

This week in the **Members Area**: !!!NEW Register for the Development and International Funding Workshop & SOLIDAR West Africa Working Group NEW!!! Read latest funding update. If you don't have a password, contact [Abigail](#)

Read SOLIDAR's [letter](#) on the regulation of tax havens published in the **European Voice**

Read the [conference report](#) from the 17th **Volonteurope Conference 2008**. [Registration](#) for **Volunteurope 2009**, taking place in Sarajevo from 8-11 October, will be launched in the next month.

SOLIDAR member, **Solidarité Laïque**, coordinates the campaign "Demain le monde. la santé pour toutes et tous". The campaign is launching a [comic strip contest](#) for illustrations on the topic "Health: a state of physical, mental and social well-being".

SOLIDAR member **LegaCoopBund** has launched a new service called [Workcoop](#) which is advising unemployed workers in the region of Bolzano how to start up their own cooperative business.

PARTNERS NEWS

The **Socialist Group of the Committee of the Regions** has launched a [photo competition](#) for young people on the theme 'Europe in my everyday life'

A SOLIDAR [article](#) on Perspectives for Social Europe facing financial and economic crises has been published in the **European Network Against Racism** newsletter.

SOLIDAR Global Network partner in Egypt, **CTUWS**, has produced a [report](#) on the recent situation with the Egyptian National Railway workers.

A **Sawt el-Amel** [Photo Exhibition](#) celebrates milestones of women's activism.

Europe's World, the Europe-wide ideas community, has launched its [new website and quarterly newsletter](#).

JOB OFFERS

SOLIDAR is looking for a [Project Officer: Humanitarian Aid and Cooperation in the Field](#).

28	Global Day of Mobilisation for G20 Summit, London
1	Global Network Steering group meeting, Brussels
2	G20 meeting, London
2-3	Global Progressive Forum event, Brussels
14	Civil Society Day, Brussels
14-15	SOLIDAR Development and International Funding Workshop & West Africa Working Group, Brussels
16-18	Conference: Social Economy, Prague
22-23	Conference: Social Services - a tool to Mobilise Workforce and Reinforce Social Cohesion, Prague

29	SOLIDAR conference: 'Together for Social Europe', Brussels
26	SOLIDAR Annual General Assembly, Brussels