

In times of crisis, citizens expect their politicians and governments to act. Estimates predict that unemployment could rise up to 25 million within the EU alone, with poverty and social exclusion also increasing. Progressive civil society must remind the rest of society that it is time for a change: for investment in social infrastructure, in a new global deal and a real economy which is driven by the needs of the world population and respecting the environment.

The Czech government, which is holding the EU Presidency, has lost a confidence vote in the national Parliament. This begs the question: in whose name is the Czech government actually speaking? We also see the high number of people who are worriedly looking to the future of the Lisbon Treaty: there is not only the next referendum in Ireland, but also the pending decision of the German Constitutional Court and the pending ratifications in Poland and the Czech Republic. [Read more of Conny Reuter's comment...](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

CLINTON SPEAKS TO GPF

The GPF which opened yesterday with an address by Bill Clinton is going into its second day of discussions between progressive politicians, trade unionists and NGO leaders. The aim is to define new answers to the global and financial, food and climate and energy crises. If you could not make it to Brussels, you can still [follow the debates on the SOLIDAR website](#) through live streaming of the conference and a blog to which SOLIDAR is contributing.

G20 PLEDGES HELP TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND ACTION ON TAX HAVENS, BUT FEW SIGNS OF REAL REFORM

The G20 Summit of leaders concluded yesterday with some progress on the question of tax havens and a recognition that developing countries will need extra help, but no major ground was broken on the key causes of the crisis facing the world today nor was the social investment required to aid those affected by the crisis forthcoming.

Amongst the key conclusions, they agreed to an extra \$1.1 trillion to be made available for the International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Of this, \$50 billion will be provided to "support social protection, boost trade and safeguard development in low-income countries", however there is no timetable for spending this. Whilst welcome, this money forms only a small percentage of the estimated \$216 billion financing gap developing countries will face as a result of the crisis in 2009 alone, according to IMF estimates. An extra \$250 billion will be provided in IMF Special Drawing Rights, with some \$19 billion going to low-income countries. [Read more...](#)

Read the SOLIDAR [media release to the G20](#)

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

ACTIVE INCLUSION, RENEWED SOCIAL AGENDA AND CROSS-BORDER HEALTH SERVICES ON EP AGENDA

31 March was a busy day for European Parliament Committees with two reports and a draft directive which SOLIDAR contributed to being voted on.

The Employment and Social Affairs Committee adopted an own-initiative **report on Active Inclusion** ([draft 21/1/2009](#)). Many amendments were proposed, which were in line with suggestions made by SOLIDAR ([read more](#)). The same Committee also adopted a **report on the Renewed Social Agenda**. SOLIDAR contributed to this report proposing the adding of a sentence on introducing mechanisms for migrants to legally enter and reside in the EU which would reduce undocumented work in the EU by migrants from third countries. Finally the Environment Committee adopted a report on the **proposed Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare**. We will follow up on this in the next weeks.

EDUCATION

CALL FOR PAPERS 'QUALITY IN TEACHER EDUCATION'

The Teacher Education Policy in Europe (TEPE) Conference 2009 will take place at the University of Umeå, Sweden from 18 - 20 May 2009. The Conference has launched a Call for papers on the theme of Quality in Teacher Education. For more information <http://www.pef.uni-lj.si/tepe2008/>

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](#)

All SOLIDAR members are invited to attend this year's **Annual General Assembly** taking place on 26 May in the Committee of the Regions in Brussels. Registration details will be posted on the Members Area soon.

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

PARTNERS NEWS

Read **FOCO's** [newsletter](#) with article on Global Network

Read the **Sawt el-Amel/The Laborer's Voice** [article](#) on Arab Railway Workers in Israel Fired to Make Way for Army Veterans

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

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](#)