

SOLIDAR IN SOLIDARITY WITH VICTIMS OF ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE

Following the tragic earthquake which shook Italy at the beginning of the week, SOLIDAR Secretary General Conny Reuter stated that "in these days we feel very much in solidarity with the victims of the Italian earthquake and their families. Many SOLIDAR member organisations have been in touch with kind offers of help, but for the moment being, whilst rescuers are still searching for survivors, civil society organisations have been told by the government to stay away from the affected area."

Click here if you would like to [make a donation](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY DAY ON CIVIL DIALOGUE & EU ELECTIONS

On 14 April the [European Civic Forum](#) and the Various Interests Group of the European Economic and Social Committee will host a conference on "Participatory democracy and civil dialogue". Members of European Parliament will discuss in a first round table with representatives of civil society organisations, including SOLIDAR Secretary General Conny Reuter, on how to best make use of the instrument of civil dialogue in the framework of the Lisbon Treaty and improve exchange between organised civil society and European institutions. A second panel discussion will be devoted to civil dialogue and the European elections, with speakers from the five big political groups in the EP. [Read more...](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SOLIDAR DECENT WORK BRIEFINGS now available in both [English and French](#)!

GLOBAL NEW DEAL CALL FOR A NEW FAIRNESS AND RESPECT FOR THE PLANET SIGNED AT THE GPF 2009 WORLD CONFERENCE

The Global Progressive Forum event on 2-3 April ended with the launch of a call for a '[Global New Deal](#)' created by a unique coalition of progressive politicians, trade unions and NGOs from over forty countries. The declaration states that "Together it is possible to change the face of globalization". And continued with "Millions live in poverty without access to decent work, housing or basic medical care while others indulge shocking greed."

Conny Reuter, SOLIDAR Secretary General, was one of the people taking part in the launch of the call for a 'Global New Deal'. He signed a giant globe to show his support, and explained to the gathered audience why they supported the declaration.

THE RIGHT DIAGNOSIS, BUT THE WRONG TREATMENT - SOLIDAR RESPONDS TO COMMISSION ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE CRISIS

On 9 April 2009, SOLIDAR responded to the European Commission's communication on *Supporting developing countries in coping with the crisis* with a [media release](#). In this response, SOLIDAR welcomed the honesty of the European Commission in admitting that Overseas Development Aid figures will drop over the next year at the same time as developing countries need our help the most. However as SOLIDAR Secretary General, Conny Reuter explains "Now is the time to demonstrate that we are willing to re-think our views on development and to challenge ourselves to do better than attempting to apply the same old policies. If not out of solidarity, then the potential social unrest and political and security implications of the crisis should propel us into action."

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

SOLIDAR CONTRIBUTION TO EC CONSULTATION ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION

This week SOLIDAR replied to the European Commission's [consultation on Financial Inclusion](#), focusing on the issue of access to a basic bank account. SOLIDAR supports the attention that DG Employment is giving, in this context, to strategies and measures addressing overindebtedness as one of the 'new social risks' across Europe.

With the financial and economic crises far from having reached their turning points, we should expect rising overindebtedness figures in the next months and years, with more individuals and households facing the risk of financial exclusion across Europe. SOLIDAR calls on the European Commission to address this risk and in particular the problem of difficult access or non-access to a basic bank account.

EDUCATION

Read the EUCIS-LLL [Activity Report 2008](#) & updated leaflet in [EN](#) | [FR](#)

MEMBERS NEWS

SOLIDAR EVENTS COMING UP

- 29 April: [Together for Social Europe conference](#), European Parliament, Brussels

- 26 May: SOLIDAR Annual General Assembly, Committee of the Regions, Brussels

This week in the **MEMBERS AREA**: !!!NEW Register for the Annual General Assembly NEW!!! Read about latest funding update. If you don't have a password, contact [Abigail](#)

WAR ON WANT RELEASES NEW REPORT

SOLIDAR UK member War on Want has just released its latest report, *Trading Away our Jobs: how free trade threatens employment around the world*, which brings together, for the first time, both historical and projected data on the impact of free trade on employment. It finds that free trade agreements and policies which are designed to open up new markets have led to the collapse of entire industries and the loss of millions of jobs across the world.

War on Want is concerned that moves to increase free trade - championed by Gordon Brown at the recent G20 summit - by concluding WTO talks and through a new wave of EU trade deals, will worsen the serious jobs crisis already hitting workers as a result of the global recession.

The report forms part of War on Want's campaign for trade justice, which aims to expose the impact of free trade on jobs and workers' rights in order to challenge an international trading system that has failed the majority of the world's people. For more information contact [Dave Tucker](#)

PARTNERS NEWS

Sawt el-Amel's Laborer of the Month series is back with [Rania A.R., Khan Younis, Gaza - Job wanted: 31-year-old seamstress, not married, ready to work for two dollars a day](#)

Read the **CTUWS** monthly report on [Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis on Egyptian Workers](#).

The **Peres Centre for Peace** celebrated its [tenth anniversary](#) in October 2008.

Sign the the **European Women's Lobby** campaign [No Modern European Democracy without Gender Equality](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

DGB Bildungswerk is looking for a [Team Leader](#) for their North-south division.

University of Linz is looking for [internships](#) for their students in Joint Master in Comparative Social Policy and Welfare.

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](#)