

Next Thursday, social workers from SOLIDAR member organisations in Europe will be coming together in the European Parliament to present their experiences of working with socially and economically disadvantaged persons and groups to MEPs. Using this direct approach, SOLIDAR hopes to share with these European decision makers the real challenges that social workers face working at local level with disadvantaged groups and vulnerable people, the impact that European policies have on them and what recommendations they suggest on how to improve social Europe. Come and join us at the [Together for Social Europe conference](#), bringing the voice of the people to Europe.

Hot off the press, Conny Reuter, Secretary General of SOLIDAR has just been re-elected as **President of the Social Platform** at the SP's Annual General Assembly being held today. "I am very happy to be re-elected for a second mandate as President. Together with my colleagues in the Social Platform, we will strive to continue our work of making the voice of social NGOs heard in the corridors of the European institutions. This voice promoting social and active inclusion which is especially important in these times of crisis", said an ebullient Conny Reuter.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS **ACTIVE INCLUSION REPORT**

The European Parliament's Employment Committee adopted an own-initiative report on [Active Inclusion](#) on the 31 March. SOLIDAR was strongly involved in contributing to the process of drafting this report and we are happy to say that all main suggestions made by us, together with some other Social Platform members, were taken up.

Notably, our request that active inclusion policies should be consistent with a lifecycle approach to education, life-long learning, social and employment policies and that they be tailor made, targeted and needs-oriented. As well as our request that the follow-up on active inclusion be coordinated together with the process on the voluntary framework for social services due to overlapping issues on minimum income.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION **SOLIDARITY RALLY TO GET PALESTINIAN WORKERS FROM EAST JERUSALEM BACK TO WORK**

WAC, the Workers Advice Center in Israel, has launched a solidarity campaign to get 21 Palestinian workers from East Jerusalem back to work with full social rights in the Antiquities Authority (AAI) of Israel. The archeological excavation workers, residents of East Jerusalem, were illegally fired at the beginning of January 2009 by the Authority and Brick manpower company through which they were hired, violating the stipulations of the law requiring that they be hired directly through the Antiquities Authority ([for a full account](#)).

SOLIDAR fully supports this campaign which is calling for all workers to have a decent job and working conditions. WAC are tonight holding a solidarity rally with both Israeli and Palestinian artists to raise contributions for funds to help the workers survive during the period of the struggle. If you would like to get involved or support this campaign, you can get more info [here](#)

BREAKING NEWS FROM EGYPT: FIRST INDEPENDENT UNION CREATED

On Wednesday, after a protest that lasted more than 5 hours in front of the Egyptian Labor Force Ministry, Real Estate Tax Authority (RETA) employees succeeded in submitting their application for the creation of the first independent union.

The delegation representing the protesters conducted negotiations with the Minister of the Labor Force. The discussions ended with the agreement by the Minister to accept the submission of the application for the union. With this step, the workers of the RETA have set a precedent in the history of the Egyptian Labor Movement by establishing the first independent union out from under the umbrella of the official trade union confederation, which is dominated by the government. This article is from SOLIDAR's Egyptian partner, [the Centre for Trade Union and Workers' Services \(CTUWS\)](#)

EDUCATION

EUCIS-LLL EU ELECTIONS MANIFESTO LAUNCHED

The EUCIS-LLL Platform which gathers 19 European networks working in education and training has launched its EU elections manifesto in [EN](#) | [FR](#).

MEMBERS NEWS

Register now for the SOLIDAR Annual General Assembly on the Members Area. Forgotten your password? Contact [Abigail](#)

It was announced last week that **Josef Weidenholzer**, President of SOLIDAR, is the number 5 candidate on the Austrian Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs (SPÖ) list for the European elections. Passing through the office yesterday, Josef commented that he wanted to "make the voice of Austrian civil society activists and the social democratic party heard in Europe, and in the European Parliament". SOLIDAR wishes him the best of luck in June.

Read **Solidaridad Internacional's** [newsletter](#)

Read **AWO's** [press release](#) which rejects the incompetent criticisms on elderly care homes.

PARNTERS NEWS

TRIBUTE TO JACK JONES

It is with great sadness that SOLIDAR learnt of the death of Jack Jones, the leading UK trade unionist, who received a SOLIDAR Silver Rose Award Life Time Achievement Award in 2003 for his great work and achievements.

Jack led the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) from 1968-1977. Under his leadership the TGWU reached a membership of 2.2 million, at the time the largest union outside the communist world. He democratised trade unions and was a strong internationalist. Jack will be sorely missed.

To read more about Jack Jones' life and achievements, read the [Guardian article](#)

HUNGARIAN TRADE UNIONS DEMONSTRATE FOR SOCIALLY BALANCED ECONOMIC CRISIS MANAGEMENT

On 18 April, nearly 10.000 workers, representing all six Hungarian trade union confederations including SOLIDAR partner MSZOSZ, demonstrated for a socially balanced economic crisis management in front of the Parliament in Budapest. A petition by the six confederations was handed over to the Hungarian government and three parties of the Parliament calling for meaningful dialogue and immediate negotiations at the tripartite interest reconciliation council.

BELGIAN DECENT WORK DECENT LIFE CAMPAIGN AD AWARDED

The [Belgian Decent Work Decent Life](#) Campaign has been awarded for its campaign [ad](#) and slogan ('workers are not tools') by the European Association of Communications Agencies.

The campaign, coordinated by CNCD and 11.11.11, brings together the 3 national trade union confederations and the Development NGOs platform. The next mobilisation moments - lead by the trade unions - will be organised between the 1-21 of May.

PARTNER EVENTS

The Czech Academy of Science and the Academy of Science of Islamic Republic of Iran are organising a seminar on **intercultural dialogue between the West and Islam** with specific focus on Iran on 27 April 2009 in Prague. Read the [programme](#) and [invitation](#).

Women In Development Europe (WIDE) are organising a [seminar](#) on Microcredit: an alternative for

women's empowerment? on 15 May 2009 in Brussels

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| 29 | SOLIDAR conference: 'Together for Social Europe', Brussels |
| 26 | SOLIDAR Annual General Assembly, Brussels |
| 27 | SOLIDAR International Cooperation Committee meeting, Brussels |
| 9 | SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee meeting, 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](#)

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