

EUROPE AND THE ELECTIONS

Tomorrow, 9th May, we celebrate Europe Day; the day on which the European project was created. According to the European Commission's website, tomorrow we are celebrating our European area where "values [peace and solidarity] find expression through economic and social development embracing environmental and regional dimensions which are the guarantees of a decent standard of living for all citizens."

And it is to support this guarantee of a decent standard of living for all citizens that SOLIDAR calls on people from across Europe to join in with the European Trade Union Confederation's four [Euro-demonstrations](#) taking place next week in Madrid, Brussels, Berlin and Prague calling for a New Social Deal. SOLIDAR invites all people to join in with these marches, to fight the crisis and remind EU decision makers that people must come first!

Which is not what the Czech Prime Minister was saying at the Employment Summit in Prague yesterday. Mr Topolánek stated that anybody could find a job if they looked hard enough. SOLIDAR reacted to this inappropriate statement with a [media release](#) which also highlighted concrete steps that the European Commission could take to address the social impacts of the crisis.

If we want a Europe which is social, which gives more and better aid, which guarantees decent work for people in Europe and worldwide, we need to vote for European politicians who support these views. That is why it is so [important to vote](#) in the European elections coming up in June 2009. SOLIDAR has just launched its contribution to the EU elections '[What's at stake for 2009?](#)' highlighting questions in 11 key areas which we invite European citizens to think about.

Together, stronger!

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

26 COUNTRIES NOW IN FAVOUR OF LISBON TREATY

On Wednesday the Czech Senate approved the Lisbon Treaty, with a two third majority. To complete ratification the President Václav Klaus still needs to sign it. He announced his intention to wait for the final decision of the Czech Constitutional Court concerning pending complaints. Besides the Czech Republic, 3 other countries still have to ratify the treaty: Germany, Poland and Ireland.

UPDATES ON EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTES

The [EP Report on Active Inclusion](#) was adopted by an overwhelming majority on 6 May. The [Directive on cross-border health](#) was also adopted on 23 April with around 300 votes in favour, 120 against and 150 abstentions (abstentions mainly from members of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament). Abstentions were due to the absence in the report of reference to an article on public health, as an additional legal basis for the directive, and due to the lack of an explicit reference to health services as services of general interest. Both issues had been highlighted by SOLIDAR. [Read more.](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

WORLD BANK REMOVES DAMAGING LABOUR INDICATORS FROM DOING BUSINESS REPORT

Following a 6 year campaign by the labour movement, the World Bank last week issued a memorandum to its country and sector directors instructing them to stop using the "Employing Workers Indicator" (EWI) of its highest-circulation publication, "Doing Business" (DB). The indicators had been heavily criticised because they give the best ratings to countries with the lowest level of workers' protection and had been used by the International Financial Institutions to push dozens of developing countries to undertake labour market deregulation. [Read more.](#)

COMMISSION PUSHES AHEAD WITH EU-COLOMBIA FTA DESPITE MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

The European Union this week launched another round of trade negotiations with Colombia, despite strong protest from human rights organisations and trade unions. At a meeting last week in the European Parliament, attended by SOLIDAR, the European Commission clearly indicated that despite acknowledging that the human rights situation in Colombia is dire, they intend to push ahead with the negotiations, in an attempt at providing "incentives" to the Colombian government to improve its record. [Read more.](#)

MEMBERS NEWS

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

Read **AWO's** [press release](#) on discussion on impact of crisis on social service providers

Read **ASB's** [press release](#) on situation in Sri Lanka

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

PARTNERS NEWS

CONCORD, the pan-European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development and of which SOLIDAR is an active member, is mobilising for the elections with the [10 Days for Development](#) campaign. The campaign is taking place between 9 and 18 May and consists of a series of activities, including lobby meetings, campaigning stunts and public debates with candidates.

The **Social Platform** has released a [Press Release](#) on the Employment Summit which took place in Prague yesterday.

JOBS

The University of Valladolid, Spain, is looking for [internship experiences](#) for their students in European NGOs.

9-18	CONCORD elections campaign: 10 days for development, Brussels and around Europe
14	Launch of Aid Watch Report, Brussels
18	Eurovision Aid Contest: CONCORD campaigning stunt, 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](#)