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Onderwerp: **SOLIDAR Weekly Round Up 15-05-2009**

Ahead of the European elections, SOLIDAR asked itself the question: what are the most important issues for these elections? Over the next four weeks, we will highlight the results. The first four are [for a social Europe, decent work and social protection for all, preserving and promoting social services, more and better aid.](#)

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

TOGETHER FOR SOCIAL EUROPE CONTINUES

The presentations that social workers made to European decision makers on their experiences of working with poor and vulnerable people at the Together for Social Europe conference on 29 April are [now available](#).

The Together for Social Europe campaign continues with SOLIDAR members carrying out a series of activities at national level. Coming up in the next couple of months are activities in the Czech Republic, Austria, Spain, Lithuania, France and Romania. [Read more information.](#)

SEMINAR: A ROADMAP FOR 2011 AS THE EUROPEAN YEAR FOR VOLUNTEERING

This event, held at the European Parliament in Brussels on 16 April 2009, co-organised by Greens/EFA Group & ALDE Group brought together MEPs, representatives from the European Commission, representatives of the European Year on Volunteering in 2011 Alliance (including Volonteurope, SOLIDAR and the European Volunteer Centre) to discuss the next steps in the Campaign for the European Year on Volunteering in 2011.

There was an exchange of discussion on the state of play in EU policy in relation to volunteering, best practice in volunteering across Member States and panel members pointed out a number of crucial issues, such as a stronger budget for the Year both at a European and national levels, ensuring that organisations at all levels feel part of the Year, stressing the importance of having trustworthy data on volunteering for basing policy decisions on evidence, as well as tackling legal obstacles, such as visas, for non-EU nationals wishing to volunteer in EU.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

AID WATCH REPORT LAUNCH

As developing countries face the full impact of the economic crisis, European governments are falling short by nearly ?40bn on their aid promises. This was the main message highlighted in CONCORD's annual Aid Watch report launched yesterday, 14 May, entitled 'Lighten the load: in a time of crisis, European aid has never been more important'.

With Development Ministers preparing to meet in Brussels next week, the report shows that European governments will not meet their 2010 aid target until 2012 unless serious action is taken now. Many governments are still inflating their aid levels by counting money that does not reach poor people. Missed targets and non-genuine aid will mean poor countries will have missed out on nearly ?40bn by 2010 - enough to increase the income of 380 million Africans living in absolute poverty by one quarter. [Read the media release...](#)

UPDATE ON SRI LANKA

Given the escalating violence in Sri Lanka, on Wednesday of this week, 130 Asian NGOs signed a [letter](#) sent to the President of the UN Human Rights Council calling for an emergency session of the UN Human Rights Council.

Swiss Labour Assistance also adopted a [resolution on Sri Lanka](#) at their Annual General Assembly this week, asking the Swiss government to call for an immediate ceasefire in Sri Lanka, for the protection of civilians and respect of the Geneva Convention and for free access to humanitarian aid for the affected civilian population. [Read the press release](#)

MEMBERS NEWS

18th VOLONTEUROPE CONFERENCE

Sarajevo has been chosen as the location for the 18th Volonteuroppe Conference taking place on 8-11 October 2009. The organisers are expecting to welcome participants - new and returning - to this year's Conference and are particularly looking forward to significant presence of delegates from the Balkan States and the region of Central and Eastern Europe. The third edition of the Active Citizens of Europe (ACE) Awards will recognise the invaluable contribution of outstanding volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations to social cohesion and Active Citizenship across Europe. [Read more information](#). If you are interested in presenting a workshop, contact Piotr Sadowski, Secretary of Volonteuroppe: psadowski@csv.org.uk or +44 20 7643 1329.

Read the [upcoming activities](#) for Belgian member **Pour la Solidarité**.

Luxembourg member **OGB-L** is working on a [project in Ghana](#)

Italian member **COCIS** has circulated a [press release](#) against the rejection of migrants off the Sicilian coast by the Italian government

PARTNERS NEWS

Read [information](#) from our partner organisation **Labour Education Foundation** (LEF) in Pakistan on the situation in Swat, NWFP province in Pakistan, where military operations are going on against Taliban.

Read the Report from our Egyptian partner, **CTUWS**, on the "[Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis on Egyptian Workers](#)"

The **Civil Society Contact Group 2009 EP toolkit** for the elections is now available in 15 languages.

On 29 May, **Friends of Europe** are holding a roundtable on "[A climate change protection plan for the world's poor](#)" in Brussels

The **European Trade Union Institute's** Monthly Forum on 25 May will be on the topic of [EU labour migration since enlargement: trends, impacts and policies](#)

SECRETARIAT NEWS

SOLIDAR would like to warmly welcome Julie Crespin to the team as our new Project Officer: Humanitarian Aid and Cooperation in the Field. You can reach Julie at Julie.crespin@solidar.org

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| 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 |
| 4-7 | European Parliament elections, throughout EU |
| 9 | SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee meeting, Brussels |
| 17 | Spring Alliance (EEB, ETUC, Social Platform): Consensus Conference for a Spring Alliance Manifesto, 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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