

We need a progressive majority in the European Parliament!

The European election campaign comes to its end as the 'four days of truth' begin. And provisional results from the UK and the Netherlands are everything but encouraging. Strong votes for extremists are not the answer to the current crisis, but are simply translating the feeling of insecurity that is being felt by people in Europe; this is not only a momentary hiccup, but a real challenge for all democratic and progressive forces.

We in SOLIDAR are part of those who believe that we cannot just wait for the crisis to pass, like the weather, and then continue as before. What we want is real commitment for a more Social Europe and Decent Work for all, and a Europe that sends clear messages to its citizens, unlike the timid messages on jobs and employment in its Communication on Employment released this week (see below).

And we now have to start the campaign for another Lisbon Agenda which will not only be based on jobs, growth and competitiveness, but also on social cohesion and sustainable development. Social protection, quality jobs and policies with a focus on the general interest are THE competitiveness factors of Europe, they are at the heart of the European Social model.

So, together let's work for:

- Equal opportunities for all
- Investment in social infrastructure, public services and social services of general interest
- Policies of social and territorial cohesion
- Decent work for all
- Decent life for all citizens living in Europe

There is a choice in the party programmes. It is up to us as citizens to set the agenda and to send the message that a more social Europe with Decent work for all is possible! Conny Reuter, Secretary General

EU ELECTIONS

SOLIDAR identified the main issues of importance for us in these elections. This week, we are highlighting the two last issues in the series of eleven: [Citizens engagement](#) and [Social development at heart of enlargement](#). For [the full list](#).

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

SOCIAL NGOS DISAPPOINTED BY COMMISSION COMMUNICATION ON EMPLOYMENT

This Wednesday, the Commission adopted a [communication on employment](#) ahead of the June Spring Council meeting. Although some points that the Social Platform brought up beforehand ([contribution to Employment Summit](#) and [open letter to Commission President Barosso](#)) were mentioned, on the whole, the Communication is just proposing to continue with the usual policy agenda that focuses on labour market supply side measures only and does not reflect the current urgencies stemming from the crisis, which also need active labour market policies and investment in social infrastructure. [Read the analysis...](#)

Read Conny Reuter's quote in [Euractiv](#) | Read the ETUC [media release](#)

2011 TO BE EUROPEAN YEAR FOR VOLUNTEERING

The European Commission has officially adopted the [proposal for the European Year of Volunteering 2011](#). The European Year of Volunteering Alliance welcomes the European Commission's proposal - read here the [Joint Press Release](#).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE AIMS FOR GLOBAL JOBS PACT

This week SOLIDAR attended the opening week of the ILO's International Labour Conference, which this year has dedicated itself to concluding a Global Jobs Pact in order to aid countries in dealing with the economic crisis.

The first three days have been dedicated to looking at various impacts of the crisis, as well as possible solutions. In its latest [Global Employment Trends Report update](#), the ILO puts the number of newly unemployed in 2009 due to the crisis at between 39 and 59 million. This is in addition to the growth of poverty and informality, which has had grave effects on women in particular. Much of the debate has centered around the question of whether we are seeing signs of the recession relenting, and how long the recovery will take, with most predicting that since the crisis is truly global it will take a long time for economies to recover. [Read more.](#)

MOMENTUM TO IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF EU DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

SOLIDAR participated this week in CONCORD's Financing for Development and Relief NGOs working group. This working group focuses on EU funding policies, priorities, modalities and allocations to non-state actors and NGOs involved in international development and humanitarian work.

There is currently real room for negotiation with the Commission to change and improve its funding for development processes. The Commission has signed the [Accra Agenda for Action](#), in which it commits to engage with civil society actors following a series of very critical evaluations, and has recently reiterated its interest in pursuing the [Palermo process](#) in the summer 2010. There is thus a good momentum building up to increase the involvement of both EU and Southern NGOs, and to improve the transparency and effectiveness of the EU development funding processes. [Read more.](#)

MIGRATION

The European Commission has launched a [website on Integration](#). You can find information about integration issues around Europe and you can also share your experiences.

MEMBERS NEWS

Register for the Social Affairs Committee on 9 June, and read the latest funding update on the **Members Area**. Don't have a password? Contact [Abigail](#).

Read AWO's [press release](#) on the Together for Social Europe project.

See the [SOLIDAR India Consortium brochure](#)

Read UNALG's letter in [EN](#) | [FR](#) asking to find out more about your projects and positions in relation to four major issues in the upcoming EU elections: the inclusion of disabled persons in our society, social services of general interest issues, secularism, the key role of European CSOs and the European statute for associations.

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

PARTNERS NEWS

News from our partner, **Labour Education Foudation**, in Pakistan: Niaz Khan, a trade union leader of carpet workers was released on bail by a local court in Lahore on 1 June. He was charged this time of deception and threats. It was an Inter Wood factory owners revenge of Niaz help to form the first union in his factory. [Read the whole story.](#)

The **Hellenic League for Human Rights (HLHR)** and the **European League for Human Rights (AEDH)** have expressed their deep concern about the emergency of the asylum system and the rise of xenophobia and racist violence in Greece in an [open letter](#) to the Prime Minister of Greece.

3-19	International Labour Conference, Geneva
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
22-23	Global Network Europe, Bucharest
24-26	United Nations High-level conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, New York
3	SOLIDAR Middle East Working Group, Brussels
3	SOLIDAR Western Balkans Working Group, Brussels

SOLIDAR is a European network of 53 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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