

The major disappointment concerning the result of the EU election last week has been - independent of the actual results in the different countries - the low level of participation in these elections. It once again highlights that voters do not understand the link between what goes on in the European Parliament and in their lives.

As a progressive civil society organisation, we have to face this challenge of making Europe more relevant at different levels:

- Advocating for the institutionalisation of a real dialogue between the European institutions and civil society
- Encouraging reflection on how best to organise future European elections, so as to avoid simply having elections in Europe
- Integrating Europe better in the work of our member organisations on national, regional and local level.

To support EU reflection on a new design for a European Social Model and elections system, SOLIDAR will present the European institutions with 10 priorities and will organise 5 Expert Round Tables in the European Parliament in autumn 2009 to familiarise new members of Parliament with what's really at stake.

Together stronger!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General | [Read full article...](#)

SWEDISH PRESIDENCY OF THE EU

The Secretary General attended today an event organised by the European Policy Centre where Ambassador Christian Danielsson, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the EU, presented the priorities of the Swedish Presidency starting on 1 July.

In a unique environment due to both the institutional change in the European Parliament and Commission, but in particular due to the crisis, Sweden has set 3 priorities:

1. **Employment:** The Swedish government considers the economy as a whole and wants to urge the respect of the [Stability and Growth Pact](#) rules. Sweden will encourage Member States to learn better from each other in terms of employment policies and furthermore wants to include these experiences in the review process of the Lisbon strategy. In addition, the Presidency will use their 6-month term to attack the root causes of the crisis and contribute to strengthening the supervision of the financial sector.
2. **Climate change:** Sweden wants the EU to act in a fruitful way to achieve the 20-20-20 targets (20% CO2 reduction by 2020) with a particular focus on assisting developing countries to also become able to contribute to the achievement of these targets.
3. **Lisbon Treaty:** Sweden sees ripe conditions for a successful Irish referendum after the EU election result which would allow for finalising the ratification process. [Read more...](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

DEBATES CONTINUE AT INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

SOLIDAR has continued its presence at the International Labour Conference, [intervening](#) last Friday at the Committee of the Whole and since then following the discussion on the ILO response to the crisis (taken up in the Global Jobs Pact which is the output of this conference). Critical points under debate in the drafting of this text this week were:

- **Minimum wages:** workers would like to have in the text explicit reference to nominal as well as real wage terms
- Recognition of **policy space** for developing countries to develop strong domestic economies
- Recognition of **standards** as benchmarks to measure responses to the crisis

- **Financing for Social Protection**

Concerns have also been expressed by workers on the EU position on flexicurity approach that they are trying to put into the Global Jobs Pact.

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

The [World Day Against Child Labour](#) is being celebrated today. The World Day this year marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the landmark ILO Convention No. 182, which addresses the need for action to tackle the worst forms of child labour. Whilst celebrating progress made during the past ten years, the World Day will highlight the continuing challenges, with a focus on the exploitation of girls and providing the education and skills training needs of adolescent girls - a key action point in tackling child labour and providing a pathway for girls to gain Decent Work as adults.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

LITHUANIAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS UNITE TO RESPOND TO ECONOMIC CRISIS

"Many people still see us as something from the Soviet era", complained a representative from a Lithuanian transport trade union during the roundtable organised in Vilnius on 8 June under one of the SOLIDAR [Together for Social Europe project's national events](#). The purpose of this meeting was to analyse the consequences of the economic crisis in Lithuania, which is one of EU countries hardest hit by the crisis (see [unemployment](#) & [suicide](#) statistics), and in particular its effect on civil society organisations and trade unions.

SOLIDAR put forward during its presentation that the major policy challenges behind the crisis are not new, but the consequence of an economic model unable to deliver prosperity for all. SOLIDAR asked for real change and to promote the European Social Model that we need, not only in Western Europe, but also and especially in the New Member States. It also argued for a post-2010 Lisbon strategy based on a social and sustainable development, and for an increased intra-European solidarity.

EPSU CONGRESS ISSUES CALLS TO DEFEND EUROPEAN SOCIAL MODEL WITH STRONG WORKERS RIGHTS AND QUALITY SERVICES

SOLIDAR participated in the European congress of the European Public Service Union (EPSU) held this week in Brussels. The congress adopted several resolutions, including on [Quality Public Services - Quality of Life 2009-2014](#), [health and social services](#), [equal pay](#) and the [European Social Model](#). SOLIDAR supports the main statements and many of the mid and long-term policy objectives in these resolutions. [Read more.](#)

EDUCATION

A new European Commission report is available on [Early Childhood Education and Care: lessons from research for policy makers](#).

MEMBERS NEWS

Register for the [Middle East Working Group](#) and [Western Balkans Working Group](#) meetings on 3 July, and read the latest news on the [Members Area](#). Don't have a password? Contact [Abigail](#).

FAIR FLOWERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Are you aware that the cut flowers you buy in the supermarket or at your florist might have travelled thousands of kilometres? Because of the high demand for flowers the importation of more than **150 millions flowers** from Africa or Latin America is necessary. There, the workers - most of them women - are working under very bad labour and health conditions. Besides the fact that the workers have to work without adequate protective clothing against pesticides, the salaries are sometimes not enough to feed a family and the women are often victims of sexual harassment. Additionally, often the workers are not allowed to form workers' unions in order to change their situation. [Read more.](#)

Visit the official [campaign website](#)

War on Want is presenting an [event](#) 'Israeli Apartheid: A Beginner's Guide' on 9 July in London.

PARTNERS NEWS

Association Laïque pour l'Education, la Formation, la Prévention et l'Autonomie, a member of UNALG, has put forward a proposition for a [programme of action](#). For further information guillaume.logez@wanadoo.fr

The International Steering Committee for the campaign for ratification of the **Migrants Rights Convention** has produced a [Guide on Ratification for the International Convention](#) of the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families. Seeking to better protect migrants' human rights and dignity, the new publication encourages governments worldwide to ratify and implement the Convention at the national level.

3-19	International Labour Conference, Geneva
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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