

This week's decision by the German Constitutional Court (see article below) raises a key question: how is the relationship between the EU and national governments developing? This judgement is indeed a step forward for the Lisbon Treaty - which SOLIDAR supports - but could in fact present an obstacle for the future of European integration and political Europe. SOLIDAR, along with other EU networks, will follow this process which is to the detriment of the more global project, that of Europe.

This week also saw all European political groups elect their leaders. SOLIDAR's document: [a new future for Europe: 10 priorities for the new Commission and Parliament](#) is the basis for our dialogue with progressive and democratic political forces and our advocacy for a new Lisbon Agenda focusing on social cohesion and not on economic growth.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

## SOLIDAR SRI LANKA CONSORTIUM: LOOKING BACK-LOOKING FORWARD

At the end of the final act of the three decade war between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the editorial of the June edition of the SOLIDAR Consortium in Sri Lanka's [newsletter](#) states that "Sri Lanka needs to seize this chance to find a sustained and acceptable political solution to the ethnic Tamil issues that lay behind and provided the raison d'etre for the emergence of an armed group like the LTTE. Such a solution has to be rooted in safe-guarding democracy, human rights, equality and justice for all communities. Now that the LTTE is out of the equation, Government should make every effort to work with moderate Tamil political representatives as much as other political parties to achieve this goal witho ut further delay". [Read more...](#)

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### GERMAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT APPROVES LISBON TREATY

On Wednesday the German Constitutional Court approved the Lisbon Treaty which now needs only to be voted on by the Parliament, most probably in September. The court ruled that there are no constitutional objections to approving the Treaty, but did flag up three areas in which the German government must be involved in EU rulings: tax; social law; and media, religion and culture.

As stated in the introduction, this is a step forward for the Lisbon Treaty - which SOLIDAR supports - but could in fact present an obstacle for the future of European integration and political Europe.

### SWEDISH PRIORITIES IN SOCIAL FIELD

The Swedish Presidency, which started on Wednesday, will focus on three major priorities in the social field. Firstly, full employment through an active labour market policy and active social insurance policy. Secondly, care and health, and finally, anti-discrimination, especially in the area of gender. [Read SOLIDAR summary of all objectives...](#)

Important social meetings:

- EPSCO Informal Ministerial meeting, Jönköping, 6-9 June.
- Conference: Healthy and Dignified Ageing, Solna/Stockholm, 15-16 September.
- 8th European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion, 15-16 October in stockholm
- High-level Conference on Labour Market Inclusion, Stockholm, 26-27 October.
- High-level conference on the significance of gender equality for economic growth and employment, Stockholm, 15-16 October.
- Equality Summit, Stockholm, 16-17 November.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### Gsott8: PRE-G8 CIVIL SOCIETY MOBILISATION

SOLIDAR's Italian member Arci is organising a [Forum](#) in Sardegna from 3-6 July bringing together all major civil society networks worldwide before the G8 next week to come up with concrete solutions to change politics and remedy the problems created as a result of G8 decisions. As

Raffaella Bolini from Arci explains "the crisis of globalisation shows that we need to think about another option; that of bringing the economy, democracy and politics back to the needs of the local community whose needs and resources are usually destroyed by the model of development in which we live."

SOLIDAR's Secretary General will be speaking on Sunday at the discussion on 'crisis of civilisation and the search for new paradigms'.

## **SUSPENSION OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA**

The coup in Honduras last Sunday has meant that the EU's next round of negotiations to wrap up the Association Agreement with the Central American bloc (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) scheduled for 7 July - which could have been the last session needed to secure the deal - may not be able to take place.

SOLIDAR, along with other social justice NGOs, calls to suspend these negotiations given a range of human rights violations that are occurring in a number of countries that the EU continues to negotiate free trade agreements with. SOLIDAR believes that the EU free trade agreements can jeopardise legitimate public standards or regulations aimed at ensuring health and social rights, achieving food sovereignty or mitigating climate change and undermining decent work.

## **HELEN CLARK SIGNS CALL TO ACTION FOR DECENT WORK**

The Decent Work Decent Life Campaign is continuing its work to raise support of the concept among high level representatives. Helen Clark, Administrator from the UN Development Programme (UNDP) has [signed](#) the Call to Action stating that "while the decent work decent life campaign was launched in 2007, the current economic recession makes it especially timely to advocate that the rights to decent work and a decent life are placed at the heart of the development agenda".

You can also sign the Call to Action for Decent Work on [www.decentwork.org](http://www.decentwork.org)

## **MEMBERS NEWS**

Have a look at **Members Area**. Don't have a password, contact [Abigail](#)

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

## **PARTNERS NEWS**

### **Cosatu slams trade agreement breakaways**

The Congress of South African Trade Unions on Wednesday strongly criticised countries which have made trade agreements outside of the Southern African Customs Union (Sacu). "Cosatu condemns these countries for sacrificing regional integration and the future of African integration in return for short-term benefits by increasing their exports to the [European Union]," said spokesperson Patrick Craven in a statement. [Read more.](#)

Read the [letter](#) of **Egyptian post workers** to Guy Ryder, The General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

**Soutien, solidarité et actions en faveur des immigrants** (SSAE) is holding a [conference](#) on 'Discriminations ethnoraciales et processus d'ethnisation des rapports sociaux' on 7 July 2009

SOLIDAR partner in Israel **WAC-Ma'an**'s national coordinator [comments](#) on the situation in Iran

## **JOBS**

The **Trades Union Congress** has [openings](#) for 3 PPA Programmes Officers

3	SOLIDAR Middle East Working Group, Brussels
8-9	EPSCO Council, Sweden
9-10	Kick-off meeting: Decent Work for all: The Key for Effective Industrial Relations, 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](#)

[www.solidar.org](http://www.solidar.org)