

BACK TO BUSY-NESS AS USUAL?

Summer breaks are for those lucky people who can take some time off to relax, an excellent opportunity to reload the batteries. Social realities, however, were not on holiday, with the summer month of July topping the unemployment charts in the EU 27 with 21.7 million people - the worst figures since 2005. This figure is so abstract, what does it really mean? For us here at SOLIDAR, it means an increasing number of people living in poverty and at risk of becoming socially excluded, people who our members work with on a daily basis.

Parallel to this, the financial markets continue to function on the basis of a model which has shown its inherent dangers and failures; and it is not only the problem of a few, but of an entire system. We need to seize this opportunity to better regulate and ensure more transparency and control of the financial markets. If we do not, we will continue to fail in meeting the targets of the Millennium Development Goals. This is the time for change! [Read more...](#)

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

On Tuesday, Finnish members, Workers' Educational Association (TSL) celebrated its 90th Anniversary. Conny Reuter, Secretary General of SOLIDAR was present at the event. Pia Vitanen, President of TSL commented that *"TSL is committed to foster democracy, equality, tolerance and lifelong learning. We underline the importance of international activities, as well. TSL encourages discussion about global and social phenomena. In our opinion global rights and responsibilities require common ground rules and cooperation across country borders".*

Last week, German members Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO), also celebrated their 90th Anniversary with a big event for citizens and members in Dortmund. 90 years of fighting for equal opportunities, advocacy for social rights and progress, solidarity and tolerance and a strong welfare state. Josef Weidenholzer, President of SOLIDAR, was present at the event and commented that *"AWO has been with SOLIDAR since the beginning and we thank them wholeheartedly for their support over the last decades, for both International Workers' Aid and SOLIDAR".*

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

POST LISBON AGENDA PROCESS

Over the next couple of months, SOLIDAR will be lobbying for a more social orientation of the Post Lisbon Agenda. The [Spring Alliance](#), in which SOLIDAR participates, will be holding a high level meeting with Commission President Barosso on the 28 September ([see programme](#)), asking him to comment on the [Spring Alliance Manifesto](#).

UPDATE ON TOGETHER FOR SOCIAL EUROPE DECLARATION

After the Together for Social Europe conference last April brought the experiences of social workers working with poor and vulnerable people to the heart of EU democracy, the European Parliament, a [Declaration](#) was launched by 50 social workers and SOLIDAR members from all over Europe elaborating 6 main fields of action and concrete proposals to the European institutions on how to improve social Europe. This declaration is now available in English, French, Spanish and German on the [webpage](#).

DECENT WORK AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: IS EUROPE FAIR TO ITS WORKERS?

Due the increasing number of non-standard contracts, like temporary agency work and on-call work, the principle of equal treatment between workers (which forms a pillar of the decent work concept) is not being ensured in the EU. This is one of the main conclusions of a study on [The Impact of New Forms of Labor on industrial Relations and the Evolution of Labour Law in the European Union](#) commissioned by the European Parliament's Employment Committee and presented this week during the Committee session. [Read more...](#)

To explore possible policy changes to deal with these challenges of decent work in Europe, SOLIDAR is running the project 'Decent Work for All: the Key for Effective Industrial Relations'. More information

will be available on the SOLIDAR website soon.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

DOMESTIC WORKERS MEET

The Global Network - Asia Regional seminar took place in Hong Kong on the 16-17 August and this year focused on the preparations for the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention for Domestic Workers.

SOLIDAR President Josef Weidenholzer and International Cooperation Coordinator Andrea Maksimovic joined over 40 domestic workers from Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines, mainland China, as well as representatives from Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and Malaysia in discussing the situation for domestic workers in Asia and the necessary steps that need to be taken in order to ensure that at its next international conference, government members of the ILO agree to a strong convention ensuring their protection. [Read more...](#)

WORLD DAY FOR DECENT WORK 2009: ITUC LAUNCHES THE NEW WEBSITE

With the World Day for Decent Work (7 October) drawing closer, the ITUC has launched a [new website](#) for the event.

Organisations planning activities to celebrate the day can use the website to give visibility to their actions simply by going to the section "Report your actions" and uploading information directly onto that page. The website also contains a guide with examples of actions in [English](#) and [French](#), documents on the economic crisis and other materials for the World Day, as well as logos and illustrations.

With the global economic crisis causing huge job losses and cuts in incomes across the world, this year's World Day is an extremely important moment for the labour movement worldwide to build a new global economy which works for people and which has Decent work for all at its heart.

EDUCATION/MIGRATION

The **European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL)** is holding two events on 22 September in Brussels: a brainstorming session on "[EQF and NQF: tools for learning continuity?](#)" (9.30-12.30) and a public hearing on "[Lifelong Learning, a key to achieving European Active Citizenship?](#)" (14.00-17.00).

LEGALISING UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY

Researchers from the University of Louvain in Belgium have attempted to measure the impact of collective legalisation of undocumented migrants, the impact on the economy and especially on public finances and the work market, with quite surprising [results](#).

MEMBERS NEWS

The **International Federation of Workers' Education Associations (IFWEA)** will be holding an international conference on '[Workers' education as a Global Challenge](#)' on the 8-9 October 2009 in Rutgers University, New Jersey. Register [here](#).

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

PARTNERS NEWS

The **European Year of Volunteering 2011** has [launched an official competition](#) to design a logo and a slogan for the Year entitled "Let's Slog!".

Asia Floor Wage campaign needs endorsements from your organisations for their groundbreaking and important new campaign in the garment industry, which will be launched on 7 October. For more information on the campaign, for the [cover letter and a sample endorsement letter](#).

Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Union (ZCTU) president Lovemore Matombo has won the **2009 Courage Award** by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Worker Group for "his courage to defend the rights of impoverished workers" despite the arrests, beatings and torture he has faced at the hands of the police. [Read more...](#)

Soutien, Solidarité et Actions en faveur des Emigrants (SSAE) will hold a conference on '[Le développement est-il une réponse aux migrations internationales?](#)' on the 23 September 2009 in Paris

SOLIDAR partner in Egypt, the **CTUWS**, has submitted '[Egypt: A selective submission on compliance with Labour rights obligations](#)' to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the occasion of the seventh session of the Universal Periodic Review 2010.

New Earth Deal is the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's campaign to push for a global deal on climate change at the [United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December](#). It links climate change, oil, conflict, environmental disaster and development and has no corporate funding. See [website](#)

JOBS/TRAINING

Fair Consultancy is offering trainings for non-profit organisations. [See website](#).

HelpAge is looking for a [Social Protection Adviser: Fragile States](#)

14-15	Joint social conference, Brussels
22	EUCIS-LLL Public Hearing: Lifelong Learning, a key to achieving Active European Citizenship, Brussels
24-26	G-20 Summit, Pittsburgh
28	Spring Alliance High-level Meeting, Brussels
28	SOLIDAR Board meeting, Brussels
29	INSSP Seminar: Impact of EU legislation on social services, Brussels
30	SOLIDAR India Working Group, Paris
1	SOLIDAR International Cooperation Committee, Paris
2	SOLIDAR West Africa Working Group, Paris
2	SOLIDAR Middle East Working Group, Paris
7	World Day for Decent Work, international
15-16	Round Table: Fight Against Poverty and Social Exclusion, Stockholm
18-19	Global Network conference, 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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