

Last week, Commission President Barroso unveiled his political guidelines for action and presented them this week to the political groups in the European Parliament. SOLIDAR is quite disappointed with this 41-page document which appears to be more of a copy-paste of various documents, including the Spring Alliance Manifesto, than a personal strategy programme. Some media were saying that with this document, President Barroso was placing social issues at the heart of his new strategy, SOLIDAR however is, unfortunately, not convinced.

Although the word 'social' appears many times in the document, this buzz-word appears only in the titles, and there are no concrete actions proposed in the text. SOLIDAR would like to learn more about what actions President Barroso would actually like to implement in the social field, not just what the Commission could, maybe, do.

This gives even more relevance to the Spring Alliance meeting on the 28 September as President Barroso will respond to the Manifesto's proposals. But this conference is only one more step towards the larger movement for preparing a post-Lisbon Agenda which puts people and planet first!

Together, stronger!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

LABOUR & IMMIGRATION MINISTER OF SPAIN RECEIVES CONNY REUTER

In his capacity as President of the Social Platform, Conny Reuter met, on Tuesday, the Spanish Minister of Manpower and Immigration, Celestino Corbacho, at the headquarters of the ministry in Madrid. Conny highlighted the recommendations in the [Spring Alliance Manifesto](#) and put forward the expectations of social NGOs towards the Spanish Presidency, which includes the need for active inclusion policies to be put firmly on the agenda. Conny finalised his input by highlighting that social NGOs are happy to work together with the Spanish government for a successful social presidency. [Read article on Ministry website...](#)

ROMANIANS SURPRISED AT HAVING TO WORK SATURDAYS

SOLIDAR Romanian members, ADOSAHROM, were shocked this week when reading in some newspapers that due to a new EU Working Time Directive, from 2010 Romanians will also have to work on Saturdays. After finding out that no new Working Time Directive had been adopted by the EU in 2009, they could not discover what laws or directives the newspaper has been referring to, but it did intrigue them enough to look into the current working time situation in Romania over the past few weeks. [Read more....](#)

SOLIDAR CALLS FOR RENEWAL OF EP INTERGROUP ON SOCIAL ECONOMY

Building on continued work around the topic of social economy, SOLIDAR is part of an initiative by a European network of social service providers calling on MEPs to renew an Intergroup on Social Economy with a strong focus on social services. A [letter](#) sent at the end of June, explaining the reasons for and asking support for the initiative, was sent to MEPs and Political Groups in the EP where consultations are currently ongoing. A decision on whether the Intergroup will be set up is expected before the end of September.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR BURKINA FASO

SOLIDAR members Swiss Labour Assistance (SLA) are now running an emergency appeal for Burkina Faso where some 200,000 people have been left homeless so far due to the strongest rainfalls that West Africa has been experiencing in 90 years. Burkina Faso is the most affected country in the region and is also one of the world's poorest countries, ranking 176 out of 177 countries on the UN's Development Index.

In order to respond to this humanitarian crisis, **SLA**, are appealing for funds. Donations and further inquiries can be made by contacting [Zoltan Doka](#). SLA has been working there for the last 35 years and has much experience in the country, see their [press release](#). Our French member, **Solidarité Laïque**, has also launched an appeal for funds aimed at primarily supporting the re-building of schools that have been destroyed in the floods. See their [press release](#).

SOLIDAR's response to floods will be taken up at the upcoming West Africa Working Group taking place on 2 October in Paris where possibilities for member cooperation will be discussed.

SUPPORT INVOLVEMENT OF CSOs AND NGOs IN UN PROCESS

Following the establishment of an Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly to follow up on issues contained in the Outcome Document of the UN High-Level conference on the World Financial Crisis and its Impact on Development held in New York in June 2009, the Working Group's first meeting took place on Wednesday.

In order to ensure the continuing involvement of Civil Society Organisations and NGOs in the Working Group, the International Trade Union Organisation has prepared a [letter](#) to be presented to both the outgoing President of the 63rd GA, and the incoming President of the 64th GA, (Ali Abdussalam Treki, Libya). If your organisation wishes to sign the letter, please [contact the ITUC](#) today.

SOLIDAR AT THE 'ASSISE DE LA COOPERATION'

This week, SOLIDAR's International Cooperation Coordinator, Andrea Maksimovic, made an intervention at the Luxembourg Cooperation Meeting under the topic of 'development as social change: what role for civil society'. [Read her intervention...](#)

MEMBERS NEWS

ISCOS, are organising a final conference on 17-18 September in Bucharest for the project 'Economic democracy and participation in organising processes in the textile and shoe sectors, in Italy, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey'. The project aimed to support the diffusion of information and workers' rights within the specific sectors of textile, clothing and footwear, and involved all the Romanian textile federations, Fosil CTUB from Bulgaria and Tekstil and Teksif federations from Turkey. [For further information](#)

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

Read **Léo Lagrange**'s [newsletter](#)

Read **ARCI**'s [newsletter](#)

PARTNERS NEWS

A new film [The Age of Stupid](#) is due to be released at the end of September, linking climate change, oil, conflict, environmental disaster and development. It has received no corporate funding and has become an important advocacy tool in the lead up to Copenen hence Kofi Annan introducing it in New York in the UN week on climate change in the General Assembly.

SOLIDAR's Global Network partner in Thailand has been involved in a peaceful protest against the dismissal of nearly 2000 workers at Body Fashion Thailand, a wholly owned subsidiary of Triumph International. After the Thai President refused to meet trade union representatives, the workers were confronted with police using a Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD). Read the full text [here](#) and [Take action now to prevent their arrest!](#)

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
17	CSR and Decent Work conference, Brussels
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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