

One year after the crash of Lehman Brothers and the start of the financial crisis, the G20 convenes again. The gathered Heads of State will continue the agenda that they opened at the last G20 in London, but SOLIDAR asks whether there really will be a shift to another paradigm for global financial, economical and political order? Will there really be a commitment to take control of the financial markets? Or will the talking be enough and they return to business as usual?

Together with the Global Progressive Forum and the ETUC, SOLIDAR participated in the launch of the campaign [European for Financial Regulations](#) because regulations are essential to combat poverty and for a more Social Europe. We are seeing the disastrous effects of the crisis and the uncontrolled markets in European countries like Latvia, with huge cuts in public budgets and social expenditure. For the moment being we are only starting to see the effects of the crisis on employment and poverty. It is now time to stand up for decent work, against working poor and regulate financial markets now!

On a positive note, this week we have seen the Metal Workers' Union mobilising workers from all over Europe to Antwerp to show the solidarity between all workers in all Opel factories. It is not just a German problem, it is a problem in Germany that should have been tackled on the European level.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

BARROSO'S CONCESSIONS ON SOCIAL ISSUES

SOLIDAR welcomes the concessions made on social issues that Commission President Barroso put forward in his first hearing with the groups in the European Parliament. The concessions put forward were a proposal to regulate the implementation of the recent European Court of Justice rulings on the posting of workers directive; a social impact assessment to accompany all proposals for new legislation; a women's charter to address the gender pay gap; and finally, to develop a framework for quality public services. SOLIDAR will follow the implementation of these points over the coming months.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IN THE SOCIAL FIELD IN ITALY

SOLIDAR has been involved in two seminars and a [press conference](#) organised by Italian SOLIDAR member LegaCoopBund on Wednesday in Bolzano/Bozen. Both during a workshop with members of LegaCoopBund - social cooperatives active in the fields of social, health, employment and socio-cultural services - and in a seminar involving other social NGOs, as well as public authorities from South Tyrol, challenges stemming from an increased use of public procurement in the social field were discussed.

SOLIDAR's [contribution](#) focused on the current legal and policy framework at European level, highlighting the relevant rules of Community law on public procurement and explaining the European Commission's process since 2007 to develop legal guidelines and how to apply them in the field of social and health services of general interest. Most of the time was devoted to an exchange of experiences on the tendering out of social services. Alternative forms of delegating the provision of social services to social cooperatives, welfare associations and commercial providers were also examined. [Read more...](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

GOLDSTONE REPORT ON GAZA CONFLICT PRESENTED TO UN

A United Nations fact-finding mission has just concluded an investigation into last year's brutal conflict in Gaza and makes a strong case for war crime charges against Israel for its unrelenting 22-day military attack on Palestinians, largely civilians in January. The report also condemns the attacks carried out by Palestinian armed groups specifically Hamas. The [report](#) has received immediate support from the international human rights defenders community.

Despite the strong conclusions and recommendations of a process that could eventually land Israel in the international dock, there is skepticism about what kind of legal and political action the proposals will yield. Israel has rejected a war crimes claim and launched a diplomatic offensive to de-legitimise the critics of what it considers a legitimate war of self-defense. SOLIDAR calls on the EU and its Member States to support the UN Fact Finding Mission report on Gaza and its recommendations.

CALL FOR HALT IN EU-CAN NEGOTIATIONS

In Brussels from 21-25 September, a new round of trade negotiations are being held between two countries from the Andean Community (CAN for its acronym in Spanish), Peru and Colombia and European Union (EU). These negotiations will be held in spite of the fact that the other two CAN members, Ecuador and Bolivia, have refused to accept the form of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Furthermore the insistence from the EU, Peruvian and Colombian governments only sharpens the crisis of Andean integration process and does not guarantee sustainable development of our countries.

Civil Society organisations from the region have put forward 8 concerns that they have with the process and are asking for the support of organisations. Global Network's Latin America region join their allies in the region and supports this position and call for a halt in negotiations. Read and sign [EN](#) | [ES](#)

MEMBERS NEWS

In the **SOLIDAR Members Area**: Read how the [Together for Social Europe national seminar in Copenhagen](#) went; [register](#) for the ICC, and the Middle East, West Africa and India WG meetings...

ISCOS and **Progetto Sviluppo** are launching a campaign on "Fighting poverty: decent work and social participation" on 1 November 2009. The national campaign aims to raise awareness in Italy on the need for engagement of Trade Unions and CSOs from the North in international development cooperation in support of the decent work agenda as a key for eradicating poverty. For more information, contact [Gemma](#) or see the [website](#).

Solidaridad Internacional are holding a colloquium with Gerald Mathurin, director of the Haitian organization CROSE (Coordination of Southeast Regional Organizations in Haiti) and former Minister of Agriculture of Haiti, on "Political participation and articulation of social networks in fragile states: the case of Haiti" on 28 September 2009 in Madrid. [For more information](#)

SLA are holding a social partnership symposium on the 19 November in Zurich, bringing together unions, employers and state authorities from Switzerland, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria to share experience on Social Dialogue and to promote cooperation projects in central and eastern Europe. For more information contact [christian](#) or [register](#)

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

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	SOLIDAR conference: The jobs trade off: the impact of Global Europe on decent work, European Parliament, 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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