

This week millions of people around the world are celebrating the second World Day for Decent Work. In this context of crisis, SOLIDAR and its members are particularly proud to have actively participated in these celebrations. The Decent Work agenda is even more important this year as despite the international finance institutions and EU finance ministers announcing a recovery of the global economy, we are still seeing, and will continue to see, rising unemployment rates and social exclusion.

Decent Work is a year-round agenda reflecting the concerns of people all around the world as well as our partners in the labour movement, civil society, and political and institutional representatives. In Europe, with the new European Parliament, we particularly appreciate the commitment to decent work shown on Wednesday by Gianni Pittella, Vice President of the European Parliament.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

## DECENT WORK DECENT LIFE

The Decent Work Alliance carried out a series of global handovers of the signatures collected for the Call to Action for Decent Work to key regional and international organisations re-emphasising the need to put decent work at the centre of the national, regional and international plans to confront the crisis. Over the past two years, the campaign has received support from 15 VIPs, 120 organisations representing 28,000,000 people and 7,500 individuals. We also received new support from organisations on the day.

To mark the occasion, SOLIDAR launched a [booklet](#) on the actions that the Alliance has undertaken so far. The Booklet entitled *Decent Work Decent Life: The Campaign So Far* will take you on a trip over the last few years highlighting the main goals and achievements of this global campaign.

Also on the topic of decent work, SOLIDAR launched a [report](#) (also in [ES](#)): *Doing a decent job? IMF policies and decent work in times of crisis* on the eve of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Annual Meetings in Istanbul, which critically examines the situation faced by those most vulnerable in the wake of government cuts imposed by the IMF's tight fiscal policies in El Salvador, Ethiopia and Latvia. [See SOLIDAR's International Cooperation Coordinator in Al Jazeera's programme Counting the Cost this week as well as other media coverage...](#)

Read more about the Alliance's global actions below:

## BRUSSELS

The signatures were handed over to Vice President of the European Parliament, Gianni Pittella, by a Decent Work Alliance delegation which included Josef Weidenholzer, President of SOLIDAR.

MEPs Karima Delli (Greens/EFA); Kader Arif (S&D); Pervenche Berès (S&D); Alejandro Cercas (S&D); and Jörg Leichtfried (S&D) pitted their wits against representatives from NGOs in the Decent Work Game in the European Parliament in Brussels, testing their knowledge of what makes work decent and seeing if they could make it to the ultimate goal of having a decent life!

Asked why she thought decent work was important, Karima Delli said "This day should be marked with a big red circle as a day to remember. In our society which is continuously racing for profit and competitiveness, we are forgetting that men are not machines. We must keep the human angle, that of happiness. We must have decent working conditions. We must change the system and the logic to working less and working better."

Pervenche Berès added, "As Chair of the Employment Committee, decent work is a major preoccupation of mine. We need a massive mobilisation to win this battle. Decent work is very important and to achieve this we must work together hand in hand."

The Greens/EFA Party of the European Parliament also organised a signature session where they signed the Call to Action for Decent work. A few of the MEPs also did a short video with an NGO activist, amongst which 2 SOLIDAR staff, to highlight their support of the campaign. See the videos with [Karima Delli](#) and [Bart Staes](#).

## ADDIS ABEBA

On Tuesday 29 Sept, Kwasi Adu-Amankwah, the Secretary General of ITUC Africa, made a presentation on the Call to Action for Decent Work and the campaign during a session of the African Union's Labour and Social Affairs Commission. Bart Verstraeten then handed the signatures over to Bience P. Gawanas, African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs. She congratulated the campaign members for their work and indicated that the African Union is already working on decent work and they will continue to do so.

## ISTANBUL

The signatures were handed over by the President of HAK-IS, Salim Uslu, and Peter Bakvis, ITUC Washington, to the IMF's David Hawley, Senior Advisor, External Relations Department and the World Bank's Grace Ssempala, Director of international affairs.

## MANILA

The Filipino trade union, TUCP, handed over the signatures to a representative from the Asia Development Bank.

## BUENOS AIRES

The Argentina trade union TUCA-CSA handed over the signatures to a representative from the Organisation of American States.

## GENEVA

Ester Busser from the International Trade Confederation handed over the signatures to World Trade Organisation's Bernie Kuiten, External Relations Division.

## ACTIONS BY MEMBERS

**Banana Link** launched a new report on 7 October: [Dole: Behind the Smoke-Screen](#). Decent work starts with real trade union freedom, but Dole continues resisting changes in its practices. For more [information](#)

**War on Want** participated in the British Trade Union Confederation's "Rhyme, Rhythm & Reason: A TUC World Day for Decent Work Night Out".

## ACTIONS BY PARTNERS

**PLADES**, our partner in the Global Network, carried out many activities this 7 October, celebrating the World Day for Decent Work and launching a series of publications <http://www.plades.org.pe/index.php>

**FOCO** organised a round table on decent work for women and young people in Buenos Aires.

The **Clean Clothes Campaign** carried out a living wage week of action to demand that retailers make a commitment to ensure workers are paid a living wage. You can [send a message of support](#).

For an overview of all the global mobilisations, visit [www.wddw.org](http://www.wddw.org)

7	World Day for Decent Work, international
15-16	Round Table: Fight Against Poverty and Social Exclusion, Stockholm
20	Conference: Migration and Education, Brussels
4	SOLIDAR Round Table: social services and volunteering, Brussels
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
22-24	Baltic Sea Conference, Bornholm (Denmark)
2	SOLIDAR Round Table: social/active inclusion and decent work in Europe, Brussels
3	SOLIDAR Social Affairs Committee, 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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