

Bankers have been paid ?140 billion in bonuses this year, whilst one billion people are suffering from hunger - there seems to be an imbalance. We need more social responsibility and that is why we need to support the campaign for a new financial architecture: [Europeans for Financial Reform](#). Recently, governments have proposed massive cuts in public and social expenditure to balance the huge bailouts given to banks. In a time of increasing poverty and social exclusion, it is also time for governments to be socially responsible!

Tomorrow, 17 October, is the World Day Against Poverty. One of our anti-poverty strategies is our campaign for decent work: for the creation of quality jobs, protection of fundamental labour rights and the provision of social protection to people who live without it. SOLIDAR members - like [Solidaridad Internacional](#) in Spain - will mobilise tomorrow to support this international day.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

TOGETHER FOR SOCIAL EUROPE: NATIONAL SEMINARS & ROUND TABLE

This week SOLIDAR members Pour la Solidarité (Belgium) and Humanitas (the Netherlands) announced their national events organised in the framework of the Together for Social Europe campaign. Pour la Solidarité's [seminar](#) will take place on 21 October in Brussels on the topic of early school drop outs. Humanitas will organise their [seminar](#) on 27 November in Amsterdam on volunteering and the fight against poverty. [For further information about the other national seminars...](#)

On the 4 November, the first in a series of SOLIDAR expert Round Tables will take place in the European Parliament, organised with newly-elected MEPs, to confront them with the social realities of people living in Europe. The topic of the Expert Round Table is social services and volunteering and will be organised in the European Parliament. The final [conference report](#) from the 2008 Together for Social Europe conference in Paris is now available.

COMMISSION PUBLISHES CONSULTATION ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION

The European Commission has published the results of the [public consultation on financial inclusion](#) to which SOLIDAR has contributed. The final consultation document contains some of the main elements that SOLIDAR put forward in its [reply](#). [Read about the results...](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

THE ROLE OF EUROPE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SOLIDAR's President, Josef Weidenholzer, and Cooperation in the Field Officer, along with members Progetto Sviluppo and ARCI, travelled to Jerusalem on 12-13 October to take part in the International Conference on "the role of Europe for Peace in the Middle East". The initiative gathered together over 500 participants representing local authorities and civil society organisations (CSOs) from Italy, France and Spain with Israeli and Palestinian NGOs, academics, municipalities and CSOs to reflect on the role and responsibilities of Europe and the international community in supporting a just and sustainable peace process in the region.

Speaking at the conference, the SOLIDAR President stressed the important role of civil society in the process as demonstrated in Europe when nations had to rebuild peace after years of conflict. He finished by saying that dialogue and non-violence underpin the path to sustainable peace.

CONCORD REPORT SHOWS EU POLICY INCOHERENCY IS DAMAGING DEVELOPMENT

Responding to the Commission's Communication and report on Policy Coherence for Development, CONCORD released a [report](#) on Wednesday appealing for Europe to stop harming developing countries with its policies. The "Spotlight on Policy Coherence" report looks at the damaging impact that EU policies such as trade and agriculture are having on developing countries, effectively undoing all of the potential achievements of its development aid. Read the [press release](#).

COMMISSION NEEDS TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH WESTERN BALKANS

The European Commission published a new Communication on enlargement on 14 October, made up of the strategy outline for the upcoming two years and of 8 annual progress reports. Although there is optimistic news on progress in Croatia and the Former Republic of Macedonia, there are several points that cause anxiety: the overall economic crisis seems to have hit the applicants hard, resulting in less export, less investment and therefore higher unemployment.

What is now needed, more than ever, is to show solidarity with the Western Balkans and to make sure that Social Europe does not stop at the current EU borders. Read the Commission's [strategy paper](#).

EDUCATION

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PROMOTING THE LEARNING MOBILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE

In July, the European Commission published a Green Paper on "Promoting the learning mobility of young people" to open up a debate on how best to boost the opportunities for young people to develop their knowledge and skills by going abroad. [To contribute to the consultation...](#)

MEMBERS NEWS

On the **SOLIDAR** [Members Area](#) this week register for the Social Affairs Committee meeting on 3 December.

COCIS invites you to a [debate](#) on humanitarian aid and development in the South.

Read **ASB** **Austria's** [newsletter](#).

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

Swiss Labour Assistance (SLA) is looking for a [DIPECHO Technical Advisor for Nicaragua and El Salvador](#).

PARTNERS NEWS

The **European Volunteer Centre** is organising a conference 'Think Future Volunteer Together' on senior volunteering and active ageing in Europe on 19 November 2009 in the European Parliament in Brussels ([invitation](#) | [program](#)).

Read **Central de Trabajadores de la Argentina (CTA)** and the **Confederación General del Trabajo (CGT RA)** [joint press release](#) on their World Day of Decent Work celebrations.

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| 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, |

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| | 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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