

## **SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

### **SOCIAL POLICY PRIORITIES IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation organised a seminar in Bulgaria on 19-20 October on "Social Inclusion: National and Regional Policy Priorities for a Social Europe" involving representatives from ministries, trade unions, academia, and think tanks from 8 countries in the Western Balkans. Country studies on social inclusion priorities for education, healthcare, employment/labour market inclusion and anti-poverty policies/social services in [Bulgaria](#), Croatia, Macedonia, Romania and Serbia were debated in view of identifying elements for a regional strategy.

SOLIDAR contributed to the debate highlighting the social policy options for the EU, focusing on the challenges ahead linked to different facets of poverty and social exclusion, policy options at European level and how to strengthen the involvement of trade unions and civil society in social protection and social inclusion processes. [Read more](#) on SOLIDAR's presentation and activities in the region...

### **EU NEEDS TO STEP UP AGAINST POVERTY IN CRISIS**

Last week, on 15-16 October, the [8th European Round Table](#) on Poverty and Social Exclusion was held in Stockholm. The initiative gathered together around 300 participants representing European institutions, national governments, NGOs, local authorities and other relevant stakeholders. Tackling poverty is even harder in times of recession and new challenges have to be faced in drawing up an effective active inclusion strategy. Bearing in mind that 78 million people live at risk of poverty and that the economic crisis is aggravating the situation further, concrete [measures](#) need to be taken urgently.

The need for a renewed social agenda, for a reinforced OMC as a driving force for action and for new quantified indicators which will focus on wellbeing rather than GDP per capita, were priorities shared by speakers and rapporteurs; the aim being to conceive a post Lisbon Strategy which will actually reduce the poverty rate and create equal opportunities for all.

### **EPR ESOLUTION FOR SOCIAL CONDITIONALITIES IN BAIL-OUT PLANS**

The Greens, Socialist and Liberal groups want the European Parliament to call for social conditionality to be included in the bail-out plans for Central and Eastern European Countries. They have proposed that the Parliament adopt a resolution on it. To support this, please send this [letter](#) to your MEPs.

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

### **EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2009**

Thousands of development actors from both governments and civil society will participate to exchange information and ideas about the role of the EU and European governments in international development at the [European Development Days](#) currently being held (22-24 October) in Stockholm.

SOLIDAR will be present through CONCORD which will be organising and participating in events on: policy coherence for development; responding to the global economic downturn; financing aid; and climate change and its impact on development. Plus, the European Commission is launching its first-ever European Report on Development (ERD) which will address the complex issues of which types of development assistance work best and whether aid hinders rather than hastens economic and social development in the world's poorest countries.

### **CONCORD CALLS ON EU MINISTERS FOR POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT**

CONCORD has drafted a letter calling on EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs to take into account the policy coherence in the process of institutional reforms in the EU's external affairs and development fields. It urges the EU Council of Ministers to ensure that poverty eradication remains the primary objective of European development policy. To support the initiative, please send this [letter](#) to your national government.

### **DECENT WORK FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS**

This week during the 1st ITUC Women Conference - which saw hundreds of women trade unions activists attend from all around the world - a panel discussion took place on Organising Domestic Workers and Protecting their Rights: a topic which will be high on the agenda of the ILO 99th Conference in June 2010.

In order to ensure that these workers are not left aside, in a grey-no-law zone, a campaign has started to support the adoption of an ILO Convention on Domestic Workers and for its ratification after adoption. To support the recognition of labour rights for domestic workers, a global campaign will be launched on the week of 7 December. In this frame, SOLIDAR Global Network Partner in Hong Kong (HKCTU) will organize a rally on 13 December as well as an East Asian workshop on organising domestic workers together with the IDWN (International Domestic Workers Network) on December 12-14.

## MEMBERS NEWS

On the **Members Area** this week, [register](#) for the Social Affairs Committee, [read](#) about Pour la Solidarité's national event in the frame of the Together for Social Europe Conference, [read](#) more about labour rights for domestic workers...

**Volonteurope** (coordinated by CSV) has been selected as one of six winners of the 2009 EESC Prize for Organised Civil Society. The prize raises awareness of the importance of contributions that civil society makes to shaping European identity and Active European Citizenship.

**ISCOS-Cisl** published a study on economy, democracy and participation in organising processes in the textile and shoe sectors in Italy, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey. The study shows the impact of the crisis on these sectors that are losing more and more employees. It also addresses the situation of immigrant workers in Romania in these sectors. For a copy of the report please contact [ISCOS-Cisl](#).

Read the **ARCI** [newsletter](#).

Read the "Workers Speech " [Magazine](#) of **CTUWS**.

## PARTNERS NEWS

A [video](#) is now available of the **Regulate Global Finance Now!** campaign launch in which SOLIDAR is actively involved, demanding a comprehensive financial reform in Europe and globally. Join the [facebook group](#) to support the campaign.

## AGENDA

4	SOLIDAR Round Table: Investing in people: the Importance of Social Infrastructures, Brussels
17	SOLIDAR conference: Whose responsibility? Decent work and multinational supply chains, 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
9-10	Global Network Europe Seminar in Belgrade
12	SOLIDAR Silver Rose Award Ceremony 10th Anniversary, European Parliament

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](#).

