

After 8 long years of negotiations, conferences and summits, the Czech Republic has finally ratified the Lisbon Treaty: there is light at the end of the tunnel. SOLIDAR very much welcomes this step and the opportunities that this Treaty offers, notably on fundamental rights.

Nevertheless the progress of the EU will not be smooth - it never has been - as we are now hearing that the European Commission is not going to hold a consultation on the crucial question of the future strategy of the EU, the post-Lisbon process, because... of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty! We hope that this is not the case as it would jeopardise all of civil society's investments for another European paradigm based on social and environmentally sustainable growth, and not just growth and jobs. It is not just about the consultation, it is about the EU involving citizens in a participatory process on the future of our common Europe.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

REGISTER FOR EVENTS

The 10th SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards ceremony will take place on 12 January 2010 in the European Parliament in Brussels. On this day, we will once again celebrate individuals and organisations that have made an extraordinary contribution to the fight for more social justice in Europe and around the world. You can now [nominate](#) individuals or organisations for the awards and [register](#) for the Silver Rose Awards Ceremony.

Registration is also open for the following SOLIDAR events:

17 November: [Whose Responsibility? Decent Work and Multinational Supply Chains](#)

18-19 November: [The jobs trade off: impacts of Global Europe on decent work](#)

SOCIAL POLICY

ROUND TABLE ON SOCIAL SERVICES AND VOLUNTEERING

On Wednesday, SOLIDAR organised a Round Table in the European Parliament in Brussels on the importance of social infrastructures and the value that volunteering brings to individuals and society. The panel made up of host, Bernadette Vignaud MEP, Proinsias de Rossa MEP, Elisabeth Schroedter MEP as well as representatives of SOLIDAR members, Arbeiterwohlfahrt and CSV, presented their views to an audience of MEPs, representatives from social NGOs and the European Commission.

SOLIDAR is calling for a renewal of the Intergroup on Social Economy and a hearing on Social Services of General Interest in the European Parliament in the first half of 2010. Panel members highlighted the importance of putting in place a legal framework for social services at EU level (i.e. a sectoral directive that might be accompanied by a Framework Directive on Services of General Interest), plus the value of volunteering to promote social inclusion and cohesion. A conference report will be circulated.

A [second Round Table](#) will be held on 2 December, focusing on social/active inclusion and decent work. For more information about SOLIDAR members' experiences of working with socially and economically disadvantaged people, please [read](#) the case studies produced.

VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING SEMINAR

SOLIDAR UK member CSV, Third Sector European Network and the Economic and Social Research Council, delivered a seminar for over 100 participants in London on the value of volunteering. The event, supported by SOLIDAR, was part of the [Together for Social Europe project](#) and brought together representatives from Third Sector Organisations, policy makers at national and EU level, and academics, to discuss the impact and invaluable contributions that volunteering brings to all aspects of social cohesion, citizen engagement and well-being. A copy of the Seminar Briefing is [available](#) and recommendations from the event will be formulated shortly.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

LAST WEEK'S COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS UNCLEAR AS TO WHERE DEVELOPMENT WILL SIT

The question of where Development sits within the post-Lisbon architecture was not answered by last week's European Council meeting. The Council Conclusions clearly state that trade and development remain responsibilities of the Commission, but leave room for blurring by stating that the European External Action Service (EEAS) will be involved in the whole programming chain, with a specific division of labour between the EEAS and Commission services being decided before the end of 2009.

This has implications for who will have budgetary responsibility for the development budget, and by which process that will be decided. The Conclusions underline that both the EC and the High Representative will have a role to play. SOLIDAR believes it is important to let our governments know that the Development Commissioner must have a strong role in this process to minimise the risk that development money could be focused on the EU's strategic foreign policy goals rather than poverty reduction. [Read more...](#)

SLA AND ASB ACTIVE IN PADANG AFTER EARTHQUAKE

Following the earthquake which struck West Sumatra (Indonesia) in early October, SOLIDAR members, Swiss Labour Assistance (SLA) and Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) have opened an office in Padang and started implementing a 600 temporary shelter project, which should be followed by a training project on safe construction techniques for permanent houses. At this moment SLA will stay at least for 6 months in Padang working on shelter, permanent housing and education, and hopes to extend to a year. SOLIDAR members who are interested in receiving more information or channeling funds through a partner, please contact [Zoltan Doka](#), head of international department.

MADRID COALITION LAUNCHED

On the 22 September in Seville, the Madrid Coalition - an alliance of nearly 200 Palestinian, Israeli and European civil society organisations and networks (of which SOLIDAR), local authorities and trade unions - was launched. Organised by Spanish SOLIDAR member, Asamblea de Cooperación Por la Paz (ACPP), the Coalition aims to increase the support of public opinion in Israel, Palestine and Europe for a negotiated agreement to the conflict.

"We know that a strong and articulated civil society can support governments and confront them when they fail to serve the best interests of their citizenship. We have to tell our publics that peace is relevant to their daily lives", said José Ruibérriz, member of the Coalition's Executive Committee. All member organisations support the Arab Peace Initiative as a framework for a final and just solution for this conflict and an end to the occupation. The Madrid Coalition aims to incorporate more members and gain support from a wide range of civil society organisations from Palestine, Israel and Europe in order to make this solution a reality. For more information, madrid.coalition@gmail.com

MEMBERS NEWS

Updates in the SOLIDAR's Members Area:

The [Cooperation in the Field database](#) is an important tool to facilitate cooperation and networking within SOLIDAR in international development cooperation and relief. It will allow you to have ready access to information concerning the activities of other SOLIDAR members in the countries and/or fields in which you are interested or involved. We would like to invite all SOLIDAR member organisations to fill in key information on their international development and humanitarian interventions - and to keep this information regularly updated.

We have launched a [funding section](#) In the Members Area where you will find updated information on international and social projects.

SOLIDAR's Ukrainian member, **Narodna Dopomoha**, is celebrating their [15th anniversary](#).

Pour la Solidarité has published a report on the role of enterprises in the upcoming climate negotiations in Copenhagen ([Article](#) | [Report](#)). Also read their briefings on [Food and Food Supply Chains](#) and [Sustainable Mobility](#).

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

PARTNERS NEWS

CTUWS has published its 7th [report](#) on the Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Egyptian Workers.

COFACE is seeking a [Online Editor](#) for a forthcoming European research project, the FAMILYPLATFORM.

AGENDA

4	SOLIDAR Round Table: Investing in people: the Importance of Social Infrastructures, Brussels
12-13	2nd meeting European Integration Forum, 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](#)

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