

On Monday heads of state and government celebrated the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The political changes that we have seen are all very welcome, but walls still exist preventing people from accessing more democracy, freedom, justice, peace and prosperity, in particular when it comes to the social effects of the crisis in some of the EU New Member States like Latvia, Lithuania and Hungary. The crisis has shown that focusing only on economic growth and leaving the regulation to the financial market is simply not sufficient. Freedom is not only a question of constitutional liberties and rights, it is about generating and distributing wealth for everyone in our societies, it is about decent work and decent life for all!

The citizens in Central and Eastern Europe achieved political changes, and now we have to make sure that the future of Europe is based on policies which put the people and planet first. Mr. Barroso, tear down the wall of poverty and social exclusion by contributing to a Europe based on solidarity and equality! Let citizens contribute to the new 2020 strategy by maintaining the consultation! This will show that lessons have been learnt after 20 years and that the future is in an integrated European project.

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

SOCIAL POLICY

FROM WELFARE TO EMPOWERMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Gökhan is a 32 year old man who was supported by SOLIDAR member Arbeiterwohlfahrt when he experienced psychological difficulties. Based on our members experiences of working with socially and economically disadvantaged people, SOLIDAR puts forward the following recommendations to EU and national decision makers on social services of general interest:

1. Develop and defend adequate legal and policy frameworks at European level and within Member States for accessible, affordable and quality social services.
2. Encourage employment creation and the growth potential of the social, health and education services sector.
3. Implement the Commission Recommendation on Active Inclusion and include additional principles under the "access to services" strand including non-discrimination concerning access and use, rights and empowerment of users, good working conditions, proper financing in accordance with local, regional and national circumstances, and continuous and timely delivery.

Please [download](#) the full briefing here | [read more about Gökhan](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SOLIDAR ADDRESSES MEPS ON POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

At Monday's EP Development Committee meeting, SOLIDAR, on behalf of CONCORD, addressed the members on the question of Policy Coherence for Development and the so-called Whole of Union approach. As reported before, CONCORD had launched its Spotlight on Policy Coherence report to coincide with the Commission's [biannual report](#) tracking how European policies were or were not working towards ensuring sustainable development and promoting poverty eradication. The "[counter-report](#)" examines 5 critical areas in which EU policies undermine development such as trade, agriculture, financial policies amongst others. [Read more...](#)

SOLIDAR SIGNS IMF LETTER ON TAXATION OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

In September, the G20 announced that the IMF would consider the proposal of a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) in order to raise funds for developments and stop harmful speculative transactions. Leaders of the UK, Germany, France, Belgium and Austria have amongst others already voiced their support for taxing financial transactions. SOLIDAR has supported this measure by signed a letter addressed to the IMF calling upon world leaders to ensure that through FTT, the financial

sector helps to pay for the government bailouts of their industry.

The FTT is also advocated in the call to action of the [Europeans for Financial Reform Campaign](#) of which SOLIDAR is a founding member. SOLIDAR is in the process of preparing a briefing on the proposals.

EU TO ARTICULATE RUGGIE FRAMEWORK AT EU LEVEL

Coming just days before the [SOLIDAR conference on Corporate Social Responsibility and Decent Work](#), on Wednesday the European Union announced that it is looking to operationalise the Protect, Respect and Remedy framework developed by John Ruggie, the UN Rapporteur on Business and Human Rights, which seeks to ensure that companies respect and are held responsible for human rights' violations in their supply chains. SOLIDAR welcomes this initiative and looks forward to seeing the Spanish Presidency put down a concrete plan for its implementation. [To see the statement...](#)

EDUCATION

THESAURUS FOR EDUCATION SYSTEMS IN EUROPE - CHECK OUT THE NEW EDITION

The thesaurus for education systems in Europe (TESE) is a carefully selected list of keywords from the field of education - a so called multilingual controlled vocabulary - that serves as a reliable tool to retrieve information on education systems in Europe. It is designed by the Eurydice Network as an indexing tool for all European providers of education information. See the [Eurydice](#) website in 15 language versions.

MEMBERS NEWS

AWO draws attention to the critics of the German Federation of Child Protection (Deutschen Kinderschutzbundes) to the lack of solutions against child poverty that the new German coalition government is proposing. Read AWO's [position](#) on this and read an [alternative concept](#) against child poverty.

One World Action invites you to the UK [launch](#) of the draft UN Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination Based on Work and Descent.

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

Read a [news article](#) by **Banana Link** on Guatemalan women workers who have been locked in the Labour Ministry after a press conference on the abuse of worker's rights.

PARTNERS NEWS

CTUWS published its [eighth report](#) on the impacts of the global financial crisis on Egyptian workers. Also, [read](#) about the exchange of experiences that CTUWS had with the American Federation of Labor. Finally, [read](#) about the presidential amnesty for imprisoned Tunisian workers.

Sawt el-Amel launches worker to worker solidarity fund. Help to [raise money](#) for the workers' security deposits.

Read the [newsletter](#) of the **International Domestic Workers Network**.

ActionAid and MEP Zita Gurmai invite you to a cocktail reception and opening ceremony of the HungerFREE Women Speak Out photo exhibition at the European Parliament on the 17th November at 17.30. For information and registration contact [Nora Honkaniemi](#).

GEZA is calling on the EU to stop paying Morocco to fish in occupied Western Sahara waters. Protest by [signing](#) this petition.

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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