

We had been ready to start this new year with a statement on our projects and advocacy work, instead we have all been hit by the tragedy happening in one of the poorest countries of the world: Haiti. Tens or hundreds of thousands of victims have been killed or injured and those who survived now need access to water, food and shelter. SOLIDAR expresses its solidarity with the victims of the earthquake.

This earthquake is one in a series of natural catastrophes which has hit the country and is a disaster for a developing country - one of the poorest countries in the world - where more than 70% of the population lives under the poverty line and where corruption and political instability are the other major threats..

We invite you to send your donations in support of the situation in Haiti to the **Haiti Emergency Support Fund** set up by SOLIDAR. These funds will be used to support the actions of our members and partners providing assistance in the field. Several SOLIDAR member organisations are active in the country and will be carrying out emergency relief projects to mitigate the effects of this terrible disaster, amongst which [Asamblea por la Paz](#), [ISCOS](#), [Solidaridad Internacional](#), [Solidarité Laïque](#), [Solidarité Syndicale Luxembourg](#) and [Volkshilfe Austria](#).

It is now time to act and show solidarity with the Haitian population,

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

Donations can be made to the following bank account:

Name: SOLIDAR HAITI
IBAN: BE53 7310 0861 1753
BIC: KREDBEBB
Account holder: SOLIDAR
Bank KBC Arenberg Horta - Branch 3728

EVALUATION OF COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE HEARINGS

This week saw a range of Commissioner hearings in front of the European Parliament which gave us a first glimpse of what kinds of policies the various commissioners intend to follow. Previously, SOLIDAR had prepared a list of [questions for the Commissioners](#) some of which we are pleased to report were asked by various members of Parliament. SOLIDAR has prepared a [summary](#) of the responses that the Commissioners gave for those Commissioners which are key to the work of SOLIDAR and our members.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

LAUNCH OF EUROPEAN YEAR 2010 COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Next Thursday in Madrid the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (EY2010) will be officially launched. The year aims to encourage involvement and political commitment from all segments of society to participate in the fight against poverty and social exclusion and promote a society that sustains and develops quality of life, social well-being and equal opportunities for all.

SOLIDAR has issued its [key messages](#) for the EY2010 that focus on two major challenges for all European societies: precarious labour arrangements and working poor. Coming up...EY2010 End Poverty Coalition - of which SOLIDAR is a member - will hold a [press conference](#) on 19 January 2010 in Brussels to present key demands and also will launch its [website](#)...European Commission [website](#) with calendar of events.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SPANISH DEVELOPMENT NGO PLATFORM CALLS FOR ANOTHER EUROPE TO ERADICATE POVERTY

The Spanish Development Cooperation NGOs Platform launched this week in Madrid its [manifesto for the EU presidency](#). Under the slogan 'We want another Europe! Let's stop talking about poverty and eradicate it', the platform underlined the need for: Policy coherence for development; ensuring ODA level (i.e. respect the commitment to reach 0,56% of GDP in 2010) and its effectiveness; fulfilling the Beijing Platform objectives and the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); and stronger EU - Latin America partnership.

NEWS FROM SOLIDAR MEMBERS

ISS (Institute of Social Work and Social Education) is organising an international conference "Promoting parental skills in Europe - instruments and effects" on 11-12 February in Berlin. The conference aims to promote exchange between experts from ministries and public authorities, academia and organisations working in the field of parental support. Deadline for registration is 20 January 2010. Further information can be found on the [website](#) (in English, German and French)

A **Volonteurope Seminar** "The Value of Volunteering: Beyond GDP" will take place in Brussels on 27 January 2010 at the EESC Building, 99 rue Belliard. It will look at volunteering as an active ingredient in the post-Lisbon strategy in the EU. For more information, email [Piotr](#).

NEWS FROM SOLIDAR PARTNERS

SOLIDAR Global Network Member in India, **SEWA**, has released a [study on Childcare and Decent Work](#). It demonstrates that child care makes a big difference in the lives of the mothers and of the children and highlights that it must be included in all programs and actions for workers' rights, poverty reduction and social protection.

The **ILO** has launched a new [Database of Conditions of Work and Employment Laws](#). The Database contains information on legal measures from more than 100 countries. It allows customised searches on individual countries or comparisons of laws from across the world on Minimum wages; Working time; and Maternity protection.

The **ITUC** has called for a major international mobilisation of humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to Haiti in a [press release](#). Though they have not yet been able to make contact with their Haitian affiliate the CTH, trade unions from neighbouring Dominican Republic have informed the ITUC that they are preparing to cross into Haiti to join the emergency assistance effort.

The **PES** has released a [statement](#) urging the EU and the international community to bring the necessary assistance to help Haiti deal with the immediate consequences of the disaster and urged their partners to donate funds to the SOLIDAR Haiti Emergency Relief Fund.

AGENDA

3	SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards, Brussels
4-5	SOLIDAR International Cooperation Committee, Brussels
4	SOLIDAR India Consortium, Brussels
5	SOLIDAR Middle East Working Group, Brussels
9	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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