

The humanitarian disaster in Haiti is once again at the top of our agenda this week, as our members and partners continue to mobilise to bring the necessary support to help in the reconstruction of this devastated country. You can read more about the SOLIDAR network's interventions below.

The number of people living in poverty in the EU is also rising as a consequence of the systemic crisis which we are finding ourselves in. That is why the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, officially launched yesterday in Madrid, is so important and SOLIDAR - as part of an alliance of EU NGOs - will put pressure on the EU to make sure that there are results coming from this year: to reformulate the EU 2020 Agenda and to also bring palpable results for people actually living in poverty.

Poverty of a worker, a family, a city, a region, often happens as a consequence of job losses if new and decent jobs are not created. Issues which 2600 workers from Opel in Antwerp will hopefully not have to deal with when their factory closes; not because of high labor costs, but due to the mismanagement of General Motors. SOLIDAR sends out a message of solidarity with the workers and their unions!

Conny Reuter, Secretary General

10th SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards - Winners

The 10th [SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards](#) are being awarded to Colombian Trade Unions CUT-CTC-CGT, the European Roma Rights Centre, the former Prime Minister of Hungary (1994-1998) Gyula Horn and the former Prime Minister of France (1981-1984) Pierre Mauroy.

This year the Silver Rose Awards are celebrating their 10th anniversary. The awards ceremony will take place on Wednesday 3 February in the European Parliament in Brussels ([click to register](#)). Confirmed speakers at the ceremony include Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, President of the Party of European Socialists and former Prime Minister of Denmark, and Martin Schulz, MEP and President of the Group of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SOLIDARITY WITH HAITI

After the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti on Tuesday 12 January, another aftershock measuring 6.1 in magnitude rocked Haiti on Wednesday. This aftershock hit people that survived the original quake and made already weakened buildings collapse. Estimates of the numbers killed now range from 100,000 to 200,000 and an estimated 1.5 million have been left homeless. This disaster cries out for international solidarity.

SOLIDAR has several members and partners directly active in Haiti, while others are collecting funds for their implementation partners in the field. SOLIDAR launched an appeal for the [Haiti Emergency Fund](#) to collect contributions in support of Haiti, which will be re-distributed amongst our members, and is working together in cooperation with our members and partners to bring an effective humanitarian assistance to the Haitian people in need. [Read more...](#)

WILL EU DECISION MAKERS FIND THE COURAGE TO REFORM THE BANKING SYSTEM?

In the last few months, as unemployment rises throughout the world, there has been much discussion of how to ensure that we overhaul the financial system that led us to this crisis. Yesterday US President Barack Obama took the unprecedented step of proposing reforms to the banking system that if implemented would mean that in his own words "never again would the America taxpayer be held hostage by a bank that is too big to fail". [Read more...](#)

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

SOCIAL NGO DEMANDS FOR THE EUROPEAN YEAR 2010

At a press conference held this Tuesday in Brussels five representatives of the [Social NGO Alliance on the EY2010](#), which includes SOLIDAR, presented their main demands ([EN](#) | [FR](#)) for policies and commitments for the Year, which was officially launched on Thursday in Madrid (read the [press release](#)).

The political legacy for 2010 requested by social NGOs asks for tangible progress on the adequacy of minimum income schemes, a commitment to ending street homelessness and enhanced dialogue with people in poverty and anti-poverty NGOs. The members of the NGO coalition are also calling for a public debate on the causes of poverty and social exclusion and funding to match the related EU commitments.

MEMBERS NEWS

WORLD BANANA FORUM - 'BANANA WORKERS GET WHOLE INDUSTRY TO THE TABLE'

After over a hundred years of harsh treatment, exploitation and damage to the health of generations, the men and women who work in the world's banana plantations have achieved what nobody thought possible a few years ago: the [World Banana Forum](#) was born in Rome on 8 December 2009, when the world's eyes were focused on another European capital and issues of climate justice. Two days later, the government members of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) confirmed their support for the new multi-stakeholder forum on the future of one of the world's most important crops. Contact [Anna Cooper](#)

EVALUATION REPORT IN TURKEY'S BANKING AND COMMERCE SECTORS

ISCOS-Cisl has completed a project on trade union training in Turkey in the bank and commerce sectors. The activities were implemented in 5 regions of Turkey, in partnership with Turkish Sector Federations as well as European trade union organisations. The project structure and the outcomes of the trainings are described in the [evaluation report](#). For further information, contact p.simonetti@iscos-cisl.org

PARTNERS NEWS

MEASURING MDGs DECENT WORK TARGET - In 2008 new employment indicators were introduced under Millennium Development Goals Target 1B (Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people). With the purpose of assisting countries to monitor and report effectively on their employment situation, the **ILO** has published a [guide](#) to inform national and international stakeholders on the definitions, concepts, calculations and data sources for each of the employment indicators. The guide also reinforces the existing indicator on gender equality in the labour market under Goal 3.

AGENDA

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| 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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